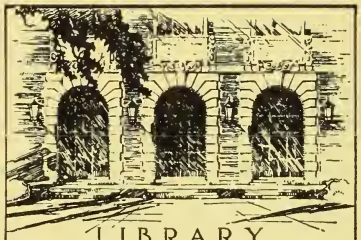
# URBANA AND CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

Birds Eye View of

# Urbana, Ohio.

1872.



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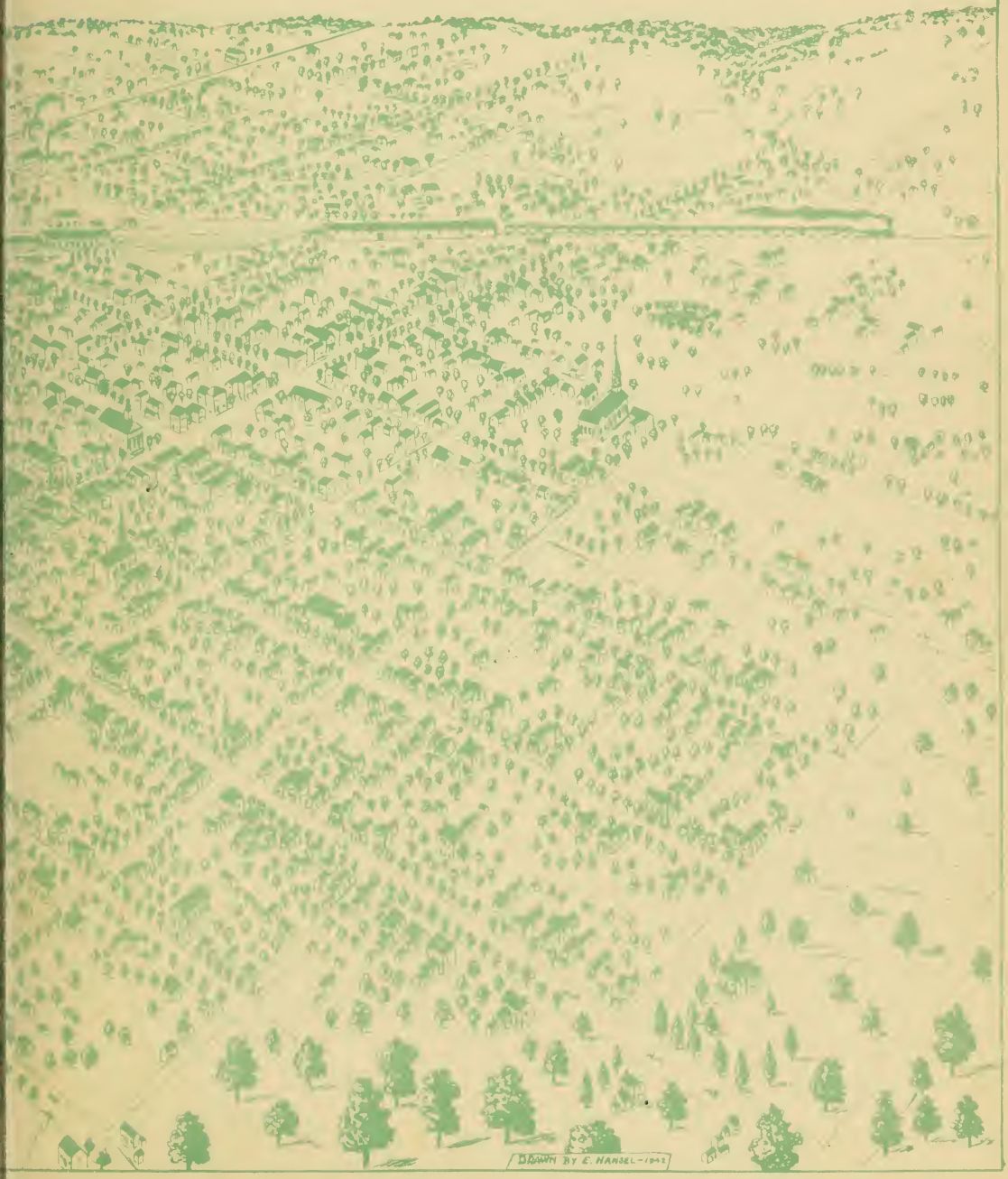
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# *URBANA*

*and*

*CHAMPAIGN COUNTY*

COMPILED BY WORKERS OF THE WRITERS' PROGRAM
OF THE WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION
IN THE STATE OF OHIO

AMERICAN GUIDE SERIES
**ILLUSTRATED**

*Sponsored by the Urbana Lions Club*

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# *Preface*

Champaign County has a rich history, in which outstanding Americans have figured prominently. As an Indian captive, Simon Kenton passed through the area and was so impressed with its beauty that he later settled down here. During the War of 1812, Urbana, the county seat, was the headquarters of the Army of the Northwest under General Hull. It was also the home of Ohio Governor Joseph Vance, Jr., and of politically prominent Carter Brand, whose grandson was Brand Whitlock, the author and diplomat. Whitlock was born in Urbana. So was John Q. A. Ward, one of the more accomplished American sculptors of the nineteenth century. Among contemporary men of note is Dr. Hugh M. Parshall, whose horses have won hundreds of harness races.

The lives of these men and of others are woven into this story of Champaign County. Urbana has been made the focal point, but pertinent details about the rest of the county have also been incorporated in the narrative. There are thumbnail descriptions of the towns and villages and of the principal points of interest in the county.

John Batcheck is responsible for the text; Joseph McKibben, for the drawings; and Joseph Donahoe, for the photographs not otherwise credited. The work was supervised by Emerson Hansel. The project acknowledges gratefully the assistance of Mrs. Harriet Milne, Librarian, Urbana Public Library; Don Gibbs, Secretary, Urbana Lions Club; John H. James, local historian; and Erret R. Lewis, local historian, who was consulted frequently throughout the course of the work.

HARRY GRAFF, State Supervisor,
The Ohio Writers' Project.

January 1, 1942.

# CHAMPAIGN COUNTY TODAY

Champaign County, in west-central Ohio, is rectangular in shape, extending 28 miles from east to west and 16 miles from north to south—a total of 421 square miles or 267,440 acres, divided into 12 townships. It is bounded by Logan County on the north, Union and Madison Counties on the east, Miami and Shelby Counties on the west, and Clark County on the south.

The county has the feel of western prairie country. Not far away are the big cities of Springfield and Dayton, but Urbana, the county seat, with a population of 8,335 in 1940, is the only city in the county. Even in Urbana the courthouse and the square are the touchstones of the town, and on Saturday nights Main Street towards the square is crowded with Champaign County folk. Mechanicsburg and Saint Paris, next largest in size, also share in a lesser way in this deeply satisfying and exciting release from the soil.

The town and hamlet are prominent features of the Champaign County scene. The county has seven incorporated communities, of which only four—Mechanicsburg, Saint Paris, North Lewisburg, and Christiansburg—have more than five hundred people. There are numerous crossroads clusters of houses, and more than a score of these have names. The neighborhood church and the fraternal lodge, with halls in even the smaller hamlets, are strong communal forces in local life.

There is little variety in the topography of the county. The general contour of flat and open land is softened by occasional rolling hills. Along the western border are table lands, while in the southeast are the more typical prairie lands; the neighborhood between Mad River and Buck Creek is known as Pretty Prairie. Most of the county drains into Mad River and its tributaries, chief

of which are Macochee and Kings Creeks. In turn, Mad River flows into the Little Miami at Dayton. The eastern border drains via Darby, Proctor, and Treacle Creeks into the Scioto River, which passes through Columbus, the State capital, a little more than thirty miles from Champaign County's eastern edge.

Springs help sustain the numerous streams that once were swift enough to turn mill wheels. There are many ponds and a number of small lakes, notably 300-acre Kiser State Lake, 50-acre Muzzy's Lake, and 30-acre Brush Lake. The most unusual natural phenomena are the Ohio Caverns, a subterranean labyrinth of stalactites and stalagmites on the northern edge of the county, and Cedar Swamp, a morass of rare and disappearing flora in the southern part.

The climate is variable, the extremes of temperature being 93 and -3 degrees; the mean average is 50.9 degrees. The mean rainfall is 39.8 inches, slightly above the average for the State; and the growing season averages 165 days.

A long, broad trough, partially filled by an ancient glacier, extends north and south. The drift overlies the entire county. The highest rock formations, of Huron shale, are between Salem and Wayne Townships. Granitic boulders with sharp edges, found in Adams Township, were brought down by the glacier.

Numerous limestone outcroppings are in Jackson, Wayne, and Salem Townships, but low calcium content renders them useless commercially. There are no coal or oil deposits. Gravel pits are a common sight in nearly every township; in the bottom lands the gravel is superior in quality and practically limitless in quantity. Clay suitable for brick and tile has also been found in every township. There were tile works, now abandoned, in Woodstock, Saint Paris, and Addison in the 1880's. One of the largest peat mines in Ohio has been opened in Harrison Township and its product is shipped all over the country.

Luxuriant forest growths, comprising more than a hundred varieties of commercial timber, once stood in the county. Today, owing to lumbering operations, no sizable growth of timber remains. Elm, black walnut, poplar (along Mad River), oak, and hickory are the most abundant varieties found; of the conifers, white and red cedars are indigenous, especially in Cedar Swamp.

Soil is the chief natural resource. More than 90 per cent of the area is farm land and the percentage of tilled acreage is much above the State average. The most valuable products in the county are grains, vegetables, cattle, horses, and swine.

The average income per family was $2,047 in 1939, compared to a State average of $1,263. Income per acre of farm land averaged $18.04, compared to a State average of $14.10. The total estimated gross farm income (including Agricultural Adjustment Administration payments) was $4,322,000, placing the county in the top quarter of the State's 88 counties. Farm income broken down by products included hogs, 29 per cent; dairy products, 26 per cent; cattle, 10 per cent; wheat, 8 per cent; poultry, 8 per cent; sheep, 6 per cent; and miscellaneous, 13 per cent.

The 1940 population of 25,249, compared to 24,103 in 1930, upset the State Planning Board calculations, which had predicted a decrease. The density of 60 persons per square mile is about one-third the average for the State.

Ohio's transition after the Civil War from a predominantly rural to an urban and industrial economy is indicated in statistics for the county. Since 1880, when the rural population was at its highest (18,724), the farm population has steadily declined, and by 1930 it had fallen to 12,085. In this half-century the urban population climbed from 9,093 to 12,018. Thus, half the county's people live in Urbana and in the towns and villages. Decline of the local farm population has resulted mainly from farm mechanization, high wages and other attractions in near-by cities, and emigration westward.

Here, as elsewhere in semi-rural Ohio, life courses throughout the county by means of the highways. Most of the county network of 803.56 miles of highway is of the tar-bound gravel type familiar in rural parts of Ohio. The first general acceptance in Ohio of an asphalt-bound gravel surface for county secondary roads originated here in 1923, when State Representative Charles Brand, of Urbana, convinced Governor Vic Donahey of its low cost and durability. Today, Champaign County has practically no unimproved roads.

Almost as familiar to the traveler as the gravel-and-tar-bound roads are the long-bodied, vari-colored school busses that make their way to and from the centralized school buildings, successors to the numerous one-room "district" schoolhouses of scarcely two decades ago.

Since 1936 the Federal Government's rural electrification program has brought power poles and lines running in every direction. The Pioneer Rural Electric Co-operative, Inc., begun that year, was one of the earliest in the State; today it has approximately 500 miles of transmission lines.

# MOUND BUILDERS AND INDIANS

The origin and fate of the Mound Builders are conjectural. Ethnologists have discarded the old theory that they were a distinct race of civilized farmers who were eventually exterminated by the nomadic Indian hordes coming from the north. The predominant present theory is that they were the immediate ancestors of the historic Indians.

The most remarkable structures of the Mound Builders, such as the Serpent Mound in Adams County, are not in Champaign County, but there are a number of remains that indicate the existence of these people in the area.

The two large burial mounds in the county are named for their discoverers, Baldwin and Roberts. The Roberts Mound is atop a hill in the southern part of the plateau known as Pretty Prairie, near Mechanicsburg. Opened in 1877, the mound was found to contain many artifacts in addition to several skeletons buried under burnt clay. A few of these human remains were in an excellent state of preservation.

Skeletons were also found in the Baldwin Mound, which is on a hill about eight miles southeast of Urbana, between the north and east forks of Buck Creek. Near the bones were beaten copper rings, flint arrowheads, mother-of-pearl beads, mica breast plates, effigy ceremonial stones, pipes, and sea shells. A number of pottery objects were also uncovered.

Several smaller mounds in the county have likewise been opened. Among them are a small, flat mound at the junction of Macochee Creek and Mad River; another similar mound on a farm near Buck Creek; one northeast of Baldwin Mound; and another four miles south of Urbana.

Most of the small mounds in Champaign County lie on the high lands overlooking Mad River Valley, although in the upper reaches of the river there are mounds on lowlands near the confluence with tributary streams. Generally, these are circular in shape, thirty to fifty feet in diameter, and from three to five feet in height. Another type of mound is larger and conical in appearance, ranging in height from eight to fifteen feet, with a diameter of seventy to eighty feet.

The Mound Builder apparently settled down to a farm life in this region. The later Indian, however, was migratory, and he prized the region mainly as a hunting preserve to be visited only in season. The area afforded excellent cover for deer, wild turkey, black bear, and small game; and the Shawnee, Wyandot, Ottawa, Delaware, Miami, and Seneca came here on hunting expeditions. The Shawnee were the most numerous, and this area was generally considered "Shawnee country."

The county was the site of a number of Indian villages. For a long time the Indians came to these familiar hunting grounds and held councils here. Seven important Indian councils were held on the site of Urbana, usually on the ground now occupied by a public playground on East Ward Street. Here the Indians gravely discussed the menace of the encroaching white man and told of warfare on the Kentucky-Ohio frontier.

Many of the Western Ohio Indians fondly regarded the Champaign County area as their homeland. This was especially true of Tecumseh, the Shawnee chieftain. He was born at old Piqua, near the confluence of Buck Creek and Mad River, and his last camp in the vicinity was on Deer Creek near present Urbana. After the Indian resistance was broken, Cornstalk, Little Turtle, La-wil-a-pie, and other Indians fraternized with the white men who occupied the old tribal haunts.

A story is told of Tecumseh and this hunting ground. In 1795, jealous Indian braves challenged him to a test of hunting skill. The starting point of the three-day contest was Deer Creek, which later was dried up by the white man's drainage operations. Tecumseh won with 30 deerskins as against 12 for the nearest contender.

# PIONEER FORAYS

The Champaign County area was never a theater of war between the white man and the Indian, but it was common ground for many of the men who did participate in the Indian wars. Here Tecumseh lived and hunted in more happy days, and Simon Kenton, the frontier scout, fell under the spell of the Macochee lands.

Of Irish, Scotch, and Welsh descent, Kenton was born April 3, 1755, in the Bull Run Mountain section of Culpepper County, Virginia. His parents were Mark and Mary Miller Kenton and he was the seventh of their nine children.

When Simon was 15, the second of two fights over the affections of Ellen Cummins, a neighborhood belle, caused him to leave hurriedly for Kentucky. Under the mistaken belief that he had killed his rival, he took the alias, Simon Butler, which for nine years was his name on the frontier.

At this time, Kentucky, "the middle ground," was yet unsettled by the white man, and the Indian guarded his own interests zealously. In 1771, Kenton and three companions went down the Ohio River, searching for the fabled Kentucky "cane brakes." There followed a time of hunting forays into the new lands, with a wary eye kept for redskins. In 1773 Kenton had his first unfortunate encounter with Indians, when his partner was ambushed and shot. In the following year, he served as a British spy in Lord Dunmore's War; a fellow scout and friend was Simon Girty, who sided with the British during the Revolutionary War. Kenton also joined McDonald's sortie against the Muskingum Valley Indians. The two punitive campaigns gained an interim of peace with the Ohio Indians, and settlers were promised safety south and west of the Ohio River.

The peace was short-lived. In the year of American independence, the Indians made a series of bloody forays into Kentucky, and one of Kenton's partners was burned at the stake. Meanwhile, Kenton had met Daniel Boone and George Rogers Clark. When Clark set out to get 500 pounds of powder from the Virginia stores at Pittsburgh, Kenton helped deliver the precious powder that permitted the Kentucky settlements to defend themselves against the Indians. By 1777, all but three Kentucky stations were abandoned, and these were constantly harassed and besieged by Indians. At the siege of Boonesboro, Kenton saved Boone's life. Kenton also acted as spy for Clark in his campaigns against the British-Indian posts at Kaskaskia and Vincennes, Indiana. He then rejoined Daniel Boone in an abortive expedition against Ohio Indians in Paint Creek Valley.

Soon thereafter, Kenton, under orders of Lieutenant Governor John Bowman of Virginia, reconnoitered Old Chillicothe in present Greene County. Kenton and his companions, George Rogers Clark (a namesake of the hero) and Alexander Montgomery, attempted to replenish their supply of horses at the expense of the Indians. In attempting to escape, Montgomery was shot and scalped, Kenton was captured, and Clark escaped.

The angry Indians shook Montgomery's scalp in Kenton's face; fastened the scout to the back of a wild and unruly horse; spread-eagled him nightly to stakes; repeatedly made him run the gantlet; and, at the old Indian village of Chillicothe, sentenced him to death. On his way to Wappatomica he loosed his bonds and tried to escape, but ran into the arms of Chief Blue Jacket and his braves, who were just arriving for the death ceremony. He was beaten and almost drowned. Then his face was blackened, in accordance with the Indian custom for those sentenced to die. At this moment, Simon Girty, the renegade, arrived ; recognizing Kenton, he interceded with the Indian council and saved his friend's life.

Kenton was then given the Indian name, Cut-ta-ho-tha (the condemned man), and adopted by an Indian squaw who had lost a son in battle. But when a party of braves were bested in a foray against eastern Ohio settlements, Kenton's head was demanded as the price of the defeat. So he was again sentenced to death. This time Girty's pleas were of no avail, but he did secure the consent of the Indians to transfer his friend from Wappatomica to Upper Sandusky for the death ceremony. (Upper Sandusky was the meeting point of the Indian tribes and also a British trading post.) On the way, the noble and eloquent Chief Logan met the prisoner and

promised to intercede in his behalf. When the fourth council met to decide Kenton's fate, Pierre Druillard, Canadian-French captain in the British service, dressed in scarlet and gold, urged that the prisoner be taken to Detroit for questioning by the British commandant. When Druillard offered an additional inducement of tobacco and rum, the Indians yielded. With the connivance of a British storekeeper and his wife, Kenton later escaped. He made his way through Indiana (to elude the Ohio Indians) to Kentucky and there joined Clark and Andrew Jackson in future campaigns.

It was during his harrowing adventures as an Indian captive that Kenton fell under the spell of the Macochee region. Historians like to relate that he first noted the beauty of this countryside while he was in agony from having run through an Indian gantlet. Macochee was Indian for "Smiling Valley."

To many of the pioneers, the Indians were wanton and brutal murderers, bent on a mad game of collecting scalps. Few considered the fact that they were defending their ancient tribal lands. During the Revolutionary War, the British made efforts to consolidate the Ohio Indians and turn them on the Continental armies. After Hamilton's surrender at Vincennes and the capture of Kaskaskia, Colonel Henry Bird was sent by the British from Detroit in June 1780 to gather the scattered Indian tribes and capture George Rogers Clark. The loss of Clark would have crippled American resistance in the West and destroyed the prestige of the greatly feared Kentucky "Big Knives." But the Indians' fear of the chief of the "Big Knives" was so great that Bird could find no warriors to follow him to the falls of the Ohio, now Louisville, where Clark had established his headquarters. The British leader, however, persuaded them to cross the Ohio River and raid settlements at Martin's and Ruddle's Forts.

When news came of the massacre at these northern Kentucky safety stations, Clark with a thousand men immediately pursued Bird. At Piqua, Shawnee headquarters, situated four miles south of the confluence of the Mad River with Buck Creek, Clark met the Indian allies of the British colonel. Here was fought the famous battle of Piqua, in which Tecumseh, then a lad of 12, got his first taste of the merciless border warfare, acquiring a bitter hatred of the whites.

Bird escaped to Detroit, and Clark returned to Kentucky to prepare for another campaign. In 1782 Clark and his Kentucky "Long Rifles" again came to Ohio. He defeated the Indians near the site of Dayton and at Upper Piqua, near present Piqua, then

proceeded to Fort Loramie, where he destroyed Peter Loramie's Store, long a focal point of Indian intrigue. Clark's chief scouts were Simon Kenton and Daniel Boone, both of whom knew the haunts of the Ohio Indians.

The Treaty of Paris ostensibly ended the Revolutionary War in 1783, but the Indian depredations continued until the War of 1812. Though the treaty gave the United States that part of British America lying south and west of the Great Lakes, the British retained Detroit, which continued to be a hotbed of British-Indian collusion.

Although the Ohio territory belonged, according to the treaty, to the American Colonies, the Indians still considered themselves its owners. They could not agree to a transfer of ownership of land that they had never willingly relinquished to anybody. The Government of the new United States was reluctant to enforce its treaty rights by a series of costly punitive expeditions against the Indians immediately after the Revolutionary War; so it discouraged pioneering in Ohio.

The Macochee towns near Bellefontaine became headquarters of the retreating Indian tribes. The first expedition officially sent to subdue the Indians was the Logan campaign in 1786. (Previous campaigns had been private retaliatory battles, directed by Kentuckians.) Logan crossed the Ohio from Maysville, Kentucky, marched north, and, with Colonel Daniel Boone and Major Simon Kenton leading the advance, destroyed the Indian towns. The unity of the Indian tribes was shattered.

Settlement in the Ohio region began in earnest the next year when Congress formed the Northwest Territory, authorized the purchase of 1,500,000 acres of land in eastern Ohio by the Ohio Company of Associates, and issued pre-emption rights to the Scioto Company for an additional 3,500,000 acres adjoining the Ohio purchase. The government of the Northwest Territory was erected, and advertising matter was circulated in the East.

The Indians tried to stem this new encroachment with more daring raids. In 1790, Territorial Governor General Arthur St. Clair retaliated, dispatching General Josiah Harmar with 1,300 men from Fort Washington (now Cincinnati) against the Indians, who were gathered in northeastern Indiana. Harmar passed through the site of Springfield on his way to the Indian stronghold. At the end of the long and arduous march, his forces were surprised and easily defeated.

In the following year, St. Clair marched a second force against

the Indians, who were becoming increasingly aggressive. He was handicapped by untrained troops, swindling supply contractors, and ignorance of the terrain. At Fort Recovery, the Indian confederation met and routed his forces; more than 600 of his 2,900 men and 250 women camp followers were slain.

St. Clair's futile strokes and the multiplying Indian depredations caused the Government to act. Washington sent General Anthony Wayne, hero of Stony Point, "to do the job and not come back until it was done." A veteran campaigner, Wayne trained his troops for almost a year before venturing forth to battle; the mistakes of Harmar and St. Clair were not to be repeated. Soon Wayne had a hardened army of 3,500 men ready to fight. Among these were Scouts Simon Kenton and Isaac Zane.

The confederated Indians, known as the Six Nations and comprising Shawnee, Seneca, Delaware, Miami, Ottawa, and Wyandot, had two great strongholds—at the Maumee Rapids west of the site of Toledo and at the confluence of the Maumee and the St. Marys Rivers in Indiana, near Fort Wayne. Chiefs Little Turtle, Tecumseh, Tarhe (father-in-law and captor of Isaac Zane), and Black Hoof cautioned the waiting Indians to let the white men strike first. They entrenched themselves and laid the same kind of traps that had brought disaster to Harmar and St. Clair.

Wayne marched north from Fort Washington in 1793, heading first toward the foe at Fallen Timbers, then a few weeks later toward the camp of the enemy at Fort Wayne. Feinting alternately towards the two fortifications, and keeping the Indian warriors close to their bases, Wayne marched rapidly up the Auglaize River to the Maumee River, where he quickly built Fort Defiance. Since the Maumee River was the only practical line of communication between the two Indian strongholds, Wayne had thus divided his foe.

Taking quick advantage of his strategy, Wayne led his forces to the rapids of the Maumee and defeated the British and Indians at the Battle of Fallen Timbers in August 1794. Following this victory, he took his seasoned troops to the Miami villages at Fort Wayne and destroyed the Indian confederation.

In August 1795, Wayne met the chieftains of the Indian nations at Fort Greenville. Here the Treaty of Greenville was made. Its most important provision established a line dividing the domains of the Indians and white settlers. This boundary extended from Lake Erie south to Fort Laurens, six miles south of the present

Bolivar in Tuscarawas county, thence west to Fort Loramie, northwest to Fort Recovery, and southwest to the mouth of the Kentucky River. The Treaty of Greenville line was supposed to serve as the northernmost limit for settlement of the Northwest Territory.

The role that Simon Kenton played in the downfall of the Indians at Fallen Timbers was not without mercenary motive. In 1788, with fellow Kentuckians Colonel William Ward and Robert Renick, he had contracted with John Cleves Symmes for a large tract now partly contained within the sites of Urbana and Springfield. It was then thought that the Symmes Purchase would extend as far north as present Urbana, but later surveys placed its northern boundary on a line with the northern boundary of Warren County, more than 50 miles south. Not only had Symmes sold land not included in his purchase, but he had also sold pre-emption deeds long before he had a legal right to do so, since Congress did not ratify the Symmes Purchase until 1794. The recurring problem of land titles was not solved until the Pre-emption Act of 1808.

The Greenville Treaty was not harshly enforced. Thus in 1795, Tecumseh, newly chosen Shawnee chieftain, felt free to establish a tribal village on Deer Creek near present Urbana. For two years the Indians were not disturbed; and Shawnee, Delaware, Seneca, and Miami lived together peacefully.

Meanwhile, back in Kentucky, Simon Kenton told all his friends about the new Ohio lands. In 1797, Kenton and two partners, Colonel William Ward and Robert Renick, came to examine their holdings in the Mad River region. They were not discouraged by what they saw, and returned to Kentucky determined to make their home in the new country.

In the same year, Chief Tecumseh broke up the Indian village on Deer Creek and left Ohio, sorrowfully heading over the plain toward Indiana. There, with his brother, The Prophet, he planned patiently to muster the Indians for a last stand on this frontier.

# FRONTIER COUNTY SEAT

The American Colonies had claimed Ohio lands by virtue of a clause in the English deeds that extended their boundaries "westward to the seas." When the United States was formed, the States ceded to the Federal Government their titles to land beyond the Alleghenies; but Virginia and Connecticut reserved small tracts in Ohio with which to pay their Revolutionary War soldiers.

Many of the vouchers for Ohio bounty lands were sold immediately after issuance. But none except the far-sighted and the needy considered them particularly valuable. Land speculators purchased most of the vouchers, and even George Washington bought three thousand acres near Hamilton County as a speculative venture. Moreover, although the Ohio country was tranquil after the Treaty of Greenville, prospective settlers preferred to wait a few years before buying up the rich farm acres that looked as "bright as a silver dollar" and cost about as much.

The first white settlers in present Champaign County of whom there is record were Pierre Dugan, French-Canadian, and William Owens, Kentuckian. Dugan probably preceded Owens. He had taken an Indian wife and lived in a log cabin near Dugan Prairie. Presently, as American settlement began to disturb his trap lines, Dugan moved on into the wilderness.

Owens arrived in 1797, clearing a small patch along Owens Creek two miles south of present Westville. He planted a few acres of corn, but his chief occupation was raising swine. He was called Kosko Elene (Hog Man) by the Shawnee who occasionally helped themselves to one of his suckling pigs.

The first groups to settle in Champaign County were of Scotch

MONUMENT SQUARE TODAY, URBANA

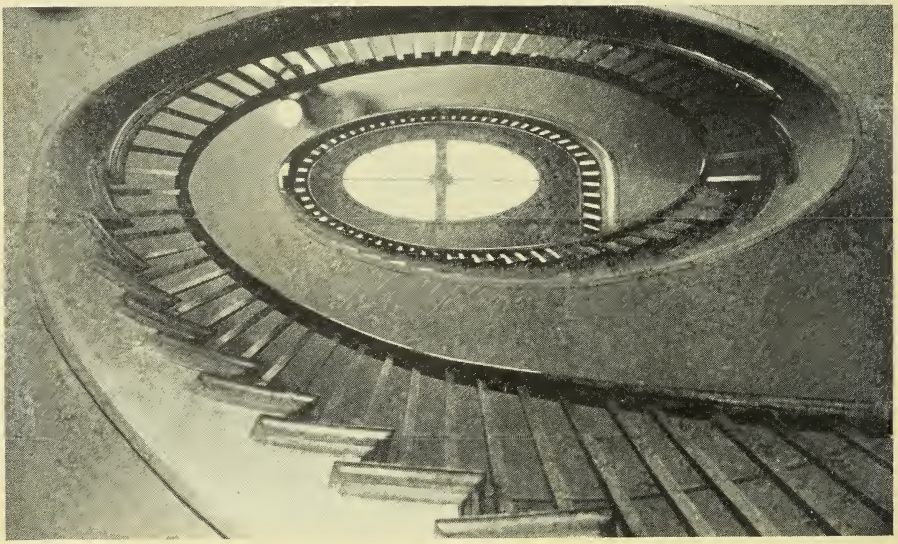
MONUMENT SQUARE IN THE EARLY 1900'S

GEORGE McCONNELL HOUSE (JOSEPH P. FYFFE BIRTHPLACE), URBANA

MOSGROVE HOUSE DOORWAY, URBANA

JOHN H. JAMES HOUSE, URBANA

STAIRWAY, JAMES HOUSE



and Irish stock originally from Virginia, who came up from Kentucky, where Simon Kenton, Colonel William Ward, and Robert Renick were extolling the "Ohio lands." These Kentuckians had helped push back the Indians from the Kentucky border settlements, and in their sorties beyond the Ohio River had received confirmation of Simon Kenton's praise of the new country.

The pioneers followed the Chiuxso Trail, broken by Simon Kenton's Indian retainer, Chiuxso, from Ripley to Springfield, and the Miami Trail from Cincinnati. On these well-marked Indian routes came all kinds of vehicles—the lumbering two-wheeled oxcart; the top-heavy, staggering pack train; the bouncing travois; and later the picturesque Conestoga wagon. All were preceded by grim men who watched the quiet wilderness carefully while their wives and children sat in the wagon or took muskets and walked beside them. Past the sites of the hunting camps of Captain Johnny and Little Turtle, of Cornstalk and Logan, of Captain Gray Eyes and Lump-on-the-Head, came one family then another and another. Sometimes months would pass before a single scout or family arrived, but as news spread of the good soil and the friendliness of the Indians, the immigrant trains grew longer and appeared more frequently.

Some of the early cabins were erected with the aid of the Indians. The Miami, second only to the Shawnee as the most feared tribe in Ohio, were working for the settlers only three years after the bitter defeat at Fallen Timbers. A demijohn of Marietta rum and a plentiful supply of roast pork secured the help of an entire village, and the Indians gave a good account of themselves as workers.

Boundary disputes between the Indians and the white settlers developed as early as 1798. Tecumseh and other chiefs of the Shawnee and the Miami, aware that their people had no legal right to remain in the county, inaugurated a system of conferences to settle disputes. The first of these Indian councils was held in present Salem Township in 1799. The claims and counterclaims of the confused, embittered Indians and the ambitious settlers were difficult to reconcile, and it was only through the eloquence of Tecumseh and other chiefs that early differences were settled by arbitration rather than by the tomahawk and the long rifle.

The Ohio region's population was 45,000 in 1800, but this locality contained scarcely 100 persons. That year Abner Barret became Wayne Township's first settler, and John Rodgers was the first to establish a home in Rush Township. Simon Kenton's brother, William, and brother-in-law, Ezekiel Arrowsmith, came

to Mad River Township the next year, as did Stephen Runyon and James McClain, Sr. In 1802 Silas Johnson settled in Johnson Township, Charles Dorsey in Jackson Township, and Joseph Hill and Sampson Talbot in Concord Township. The next year brought William Powell to Salem Township, while in 1804 William Johnson and John Legge were the first to settle in Wayne and Goshen Townships.

The Indians could not understand why they no longer owned their tribal lands. They did not consider the signing of a treaty sufficient reason for moving. Nor did their defeat at Fallen Timbers make them regard themselves as a conquered people. They had, as was natural, a strong hatred of the white men, and only the counsel of their leaders kept them from open conflict. Tecumseh and other chiefs wanted the Indians to remain peaceful until a confederation of Indian tribes was established. Therefore, outbreaks were few and unpremeditated.

Despite the general quiet, many prospective settlers in the East were deterred from emigrating by exaggerated newspaper accounts of "scalpings in the western wilderness." Occasionally, however, families from New England and Pennsylvania took the trail to Ohio, as did Kentuckians and Virginians, and by 1805, the country was filling up, especially around later Westville.

The pioneers clustered in fertile valleys and on high land along streams; here water-powered grist mills, known as "corncrackers," began to creak steadily. Shortly after 1803, three grist mills were established on Kings Creek about a quarter of a mile apart. Two were tub mills, built by Arthur Thomas and Joseph Petty, and the third was an overshot mill erected by John Taylor, who in 1805 bought 641 acres of land from Isaac Zane for $4 an acre. Zane had received the land in recognition of services rendered as a scout to General Wayne in 1794. Adam Kite also built an overshot mill beside Mad River and another by Nettle Creek, where a group of Virginians from the Shenandoah Valley had settled.

An English wayfarer, Thomas Ashe, describes life on the Mad River in his *Travels in America Performed in 1806*:

> I visited at least one hundred farms, and found the inhabitants in the possession of abundance of every common necessary and even absolute comfort essential to a modest and unassuming life.
>
> You who have been always accustomed to the refinements of luxury, will scarcely be able to conceive how

these settlers, with no other clothing than coarse home-made apparel, with no other shelter but a log house constructed with the rudest art, and with no food but of the coarsest kind, and destitute of coffee, tea, wine and foreign spirits, can enjoy any happiness; and yet as I observe, to judge from their manners, language and external application their state may be envied by the wealthy of the most refined natures. . . They are composed of all nations, and live as yet in a kind of native freedom and independence; in a kind of equality of rank which banishes all distinctions but those of age or merit—for the old control the parochial administration, and the learned govern the legal and ecclesiastical . . . Justice is administered with decency, but no forms. In the open air and on Sunday the people gather together in appointed groves, and silently attend to any person endowed with the grace and talent of instruction.

Settlers who came a few years prior to 1805 were John Runyan, John Lafferty, Jacob Minturn, and Justis Jones, in the Mutual community founded later; Henry and Jacob Van Meter, Nathaniel Cartmill, Benjamin and William Cheney, and William McClain, on Buck Creek near Catawba; Parker Sullivan, John Pence, John Taylor, Nathan Fitch, Jacob Pence, and John Reynolds, just northwest of Urbana; Jacob Johnson and Mathew Stewart, on Kings Creek; and Arthur and John Thomas, near Urbana. Other pioneers of this period were Felix Rock, John Logan, Jonathan Long, Bennet Taber, Robert Norse, and men named Owens, Dawson, and Guthridge.

Evangelistic Methodist circuit-riders appeared in 1800. Five years later, part of the original Scioto and Miami Circuit became the Mad River Circuit, which included most of Champaign County. The first group of Methodist worshippers (1804) among the tiny cluster of log cabins on the site of Urbana consisted of seven members; two years later the small flock built a house of worship. The first county church structure, erected in 1805 by Kings Creek Baptists, was the third Baptist church in the territory north of the Ohio River. In the next year, Baptists at Nettle Creek and Westville organized churches.

## II

A leader among the local settlers was Colonel William Ward, a Virginian. He was born in 1852, son of Captain James Ward,

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who had been killed at the Battle of Point Pleasant. William Ward wore his auburn hair in a queue; he was impressively tall and broad-shouldered. Although haughty and impatient of contradiction, he was kind and generous to those who knew him.

Not the least of his virtues was his foresight. In 1805 he appeared at the General Assembly in Chillicothe and successfully lobbied for the establishment of a new county to be made up of portions of Greene and Franklin Counties. The result was Champaign County, which extended on the north to Lake Erie and included all of present Clark County on the south. In this territory the Ward-Kenton-Renick syndicate had large holdings.

The land within the present boundaries of Champaign County had been part of Hamilton County when the first Ohio counties were set up in 1792. In 1797 Adams County was formed from about half of Hamilton County. Two years later, Ross County was made from part of Adams County. In 1803, Greene County was separated from Hamilton County and Franklin County from Ross County; Champaign County was erected from portions of these new units. In 1817 the formation of Clark and Logan Counties reduced the huge Champaign County to its present boundaries.

Seat of justice for the new county until 1806 was the home of George Fithian at Springfield. Here in a meeting on April 20 of that year, the county area was divided into the three townships of Springfield, Salem, and Mad River. On October 11 a site for the county seat was chosen. Half the proceeds from lots sold in the first plat was to go to the new county.

When Colonel Ward delegated Joseph C. Vance to survey the townsite in Section 23, there was not a platted town in the area between Detroit and Springfield to use as a model. Nevertheless, Urbana was planned systematically. An ample public square was provided for, and the streets were laid in an orderly pattern with no deviations for bogs and swamps. The four principal streets were named for the lake and river toward which they pointed. Thus North Main Street was originally Erie Street, and South Main, Ohio Street; the names, Scioto and Miami Streets, have persisted to the present day. The tract extended from North (Ward) Street to South (Reynolds) Street and about the same distance east and west.

George Fithian and Joseph C. Vance were the first settlers, although Thomas Pearce, a squatter and Revolutionary War veteran, who had built a cabin on the northeast corner of South Main

and Market Streets, was actually the first to live on the site. Both Ward and Vance are credited with originating the name Urbana, from the Latin word *urbs,* city. The name may have been suggested to Ward by the existence of an Urbana in Greenbrier County, Virginia, near his former home.

George Fithian soon moved from Springfield and erected a large tavern (site of the present post office) on Lot 174. This structure also served as a temporary courthouse, post office, town hall, and general gathering place. Simon Kenton, newly elected brigadier general of militia, who lived north of Springfield, became a frequent visitor to the new county seat.

The lots were put on sale in October 1806, but there were not many purchasers. Even after the 234 lots of the 160-acre townsite were almost completely sold in 1810, the population did not exceed 200. The logs in the Baptist and Methodist churches still looked freshly cut, and the first school was still quartered in Thomas Pearce's log cabin.

Early residents included William and John Glenn and Zephaniel Luce, the first tanners; John Huston, carpenter; George Hite, wheelright; David Helmick, cabinetmaker; Isaac Robinson, mason; Frederick Ambrose, potter; Lawrence Niles, hatter; and Alexander Doke, blacksmith, whose lot contained the old stockade called "The Fort." Other familiar names in the settlement of the new town were Benjamin Doolittle, George and Andrew Ward, Samuel Gibbs, William H. Fyffe, John Reynolds (who built the town's first frame house on the Douglas Inn corner), Edwin Pearce, Anthony Patrick, William McDonald, John Hurd, James Dunlap, Daniel Helmick, John Miller, Henry Weaver, Bethuel Sample, Adam Mosgrove, Joseph Carter, William Smith, and the Bells.

Much of the life in Urbana centered around the first sawmill (1806), operated on what is now Storms Avenue, and Samuel McCord's store (site of present Marsh's), on the Square. There was also considerable community activity at A. Berry's flour mill.

The new county had its share of pioneer notables, both visiting and resident. Jeremiah Fuson, a young Virginian, arrived in 1804. During his journey on horseback across Ohio, Fuson had blazed a trail of white seed corn, thus securing the honor of being the first man to introduce this corn to the western States. He later settled in Harrison Township on a 150-acre farm, and "Fuson's corn" became a household term.

In 1806 Jonathan Chapman, more familiarly known on the frontier as Johnny Appleseed, put in a brief appearance, leaving in his wake plantings of young apple trees. Some of these survive to the present day.

Richard Stanhope, manumitted slave of George Washington, arrived in 1808, and lived in Salem Township until he received his United States land grant of 400 acres in Goshen Township. Stanhope—he spelled it 'Stanup'—was cordially received, for Champaign County, almost from the time of its founding, was a haven for the Negro. (Simon Kenton's original company had included several Negroes.) Stanhope had been Washington's valet during the Revolutionary War and during Washington's Presidency. His guileful stories of the Nation's father found ready listeners; and since he was one of the few settlers with actual hard cash, Stanhope soon was considered a man of wealth. He also became noted for his professional well digging, alleged great age—he died at the supposed age of 114 years—and as the father of 27 children. His later years were plagued by historians eager for inside stories of Washington's life.

By all odds the most colorful man in the county was Simon Kenton, who at this time played an important part in Champaign County history. In 1807 a squat, hewn-log courthouse was built on Lot 104, where Thomas' second-hand store now stands. That spring George Fithian presided at the first court session, which deliberated the strange death of a pioneer named Myers in Union Township. Evidence that he was killed by Indians and that the Shawnee were preparing for war caused consternation among the settlers. Captain James McPherson, who conducted a trading place above Urbana, hurried to confer with Kenton. Deciding to warn the settlers, they went down both sides of Mad River spreading the alarm. One settler, Mary Owens, was so upset by the news that she tucked her two sons in saddlebags and moved to Kentucky.

Mad River Township settlers feverishly erected a stout stockade on Thomas Kenton's land, a half-mile northeast of Westville; and Salem and Union Township farmers also built a stockade, on the present McClain farm near Mutual. A blockhouse in Urbana, fronting on South Main Street and on Market Street, became known as a fort. Robinson's Fort was built in Harrison Township. In all, at least a half-dozen log fortifications were erected in the county.

The militia was ordered out, and it reported to General Simon Kenton. The sage general, however, arranged for a council with the Indians to be held that fall at Springfield. Meantime he con-

ducted a party to an Indian camp at Stony Creek, where he ascertained that no immediate hostilities were in prospect. At the Springfield meeting, held just south of the present Moorefield Centralized School, the great Shawnee chieftain, Tecumseh, attended by several scores of braves, was the Indians' spokesman. When one of the settlers referred to President Jefferson as the "great father," Tecumseh answered that the sun was his father and the moon his mother and that he had none other. Peace was resolved when Tecumseh assured the settlers that Myers' murderer would be punished and that hot-headed young Indian braves would be restrained. Kenton marched his farmer-militia back to Urbana and announced the results of the conference; but misgivings for the future still prevailed, and several families returned to Kentucky.

Two years after this incident, Kenton was converted to the Methodist faith at a camp meeting on Mad River. In 1810 he moved to Urbana, and in the next year he was elected first keeper of the new log jail at the northwest corner of Market and Locust Streets.

Kenton needed the job. Although he had owned much land when he first came to the region, he was now quite poor. Little over a decade before, he had held certificates of purchase for five parcels of Ohio land: 2,700 acres on the Scioto, a tract on the Macochee, the Kenton farm north of Springfield near the county line, Kenton Hill (Lagonda section of present Springfield), and several other Ohio tracts held with Colonel Ward. Through a partnership transaction with Ward, he also claimed a half-section adjoining Urbana. The Kenton-Ward-Renick holdings in the Springfield vicinity alone (astride the Mad River Valley) had embraced 25,000 acres, or 40 square miles.

In 1809, Kenton sold one of his Kentucky tracts for $36,000. He invested $24,000 of this in Missouri lands, subsequently losing these when he failed to make the remaining payments.

Kenton had to give up some of his land because the Symmes tract, which originally encompassed his local holdings, had faulty title. In 1806 Kenton's brother, William, had gone from Urbana to Washington, D. C., to get a revival of the pre-emption act on the Mad River lands. In an extension act passed by Congress in 1808, settlers on the Symmes tract were permitted to pay annually for 8 years one-eighth of the amount due under the Symmes contract. Kenton was unable to keep up the installments.

Kenton was also a victim of other circumstances. Although he claimed that his partners, Ward and Vance, swindled him out of

his Champaign County land, the defendants maintained in court that he had lost the land through non-payment of taxes. A clerk at his Lagonda Mill on Buck Creek at Springfield absconded with receipts, and Kenton's credit policy soon piled up large, uncollectible sums on the books of his mill and store. An $18,000 investment in two stores at St. Louis and St. Joseph, Missouri, was lost when the ventures failed; the stores' manager, one of Kenton's sons, disappeared. The pattern of Kenton's misfortune even included an earthquake that changed a Missouri River channel, flooding part of his land.

In these years, too, there was constant harassment by a Kentucky creditor. Kenton stoutly claimed that he did not owe the money. Finally the creditor invoked an old debtor's law that required Kenton's imprisonment if he returned to Kentucky.

For a while, Kenton stayed away from Kentucky. He had quit his Lagonda and Springfield enterprises and come to Urbana, living at first in "a house on a small hill where one Lemon lived." Upon election as jailor, he moved into the county jail, "five rooms above and one below."

But his troubles were by no means over. One of the first trials after his election as jailor concerned Phillip Jarbo, arrested for debt. The sheriff was ordered to bring both Jarbo and Kenton, who was surety for Jarbo's indebtedness. When he returned from his mission, the sheriff announced to the court: "Have found Phillip Jarbo and have the body in court; found Simon Kenton, but he refused to be arrested." The court later prevailed upon Kenton to bring himself to court, where he received a jail sentence.

Jailor Kenton interpreted the confinement rather broadly; he defined the limits of the jail as being co-extensive with those of the town. So Debtor Kenton became a familiar sight in the streets of Urbana, a long staff, charred from poking fires, always in his hand. He never ventured beyond the town limits: when he reached Reynolds, Ward, Russell, or Kenton Streets, at the edge of Urbana, he would halt, wheel about in military fashion, and start back.

Kenton had a great deal of amusement over his jail term until one of his daughters died. The funeral cortege bearing his daughter's body went a few hundred yards beyond the town boundary to the open grave where she was to be buried, but Kenton-the-jailor could not permit Kenton-the-jailed to leave town. The sobbing general sat down heavily on the boundary marker, tears streaming from his eyes, while the procession bearing his child's body continued down the road.

# WAR DRUMS

The battle fought in 1811, at Tippecanoe, Cass County, Indiana, was described later as the opening skirmish of the War of 1812. The Indians had taken the warpath. Under Tecumseh and his brother, The Prophet, they so terrorized the settlers that President Madison dispatched William Henry Harrison to put down the uprising. On November 7, Harrison met and defeated Tecumseh's confederation. The victory eliminated the last great Indian peril. Tecumseh and the remainder of his forces retreated to Detroit, where they prepared to join the British in the approaching conflict with the United States.

Although actual declaration of war by President Madison was not made until June 18, 1812, when Britain was already fighting Napoleon, the Americans lost no time in preparing for war in the west. Groundwork for an immediate offensive against Canada was laid. Urbana, largest Ohio settlement between Cincinnati and Detroit, was designated as the military base of the Army of the Northwest. General William Hull, then Governor of Michigan Territory, was named commander of the new army. Fat and 70, Hull was selected because of his distinguished record in the Revolutionary War and his knowledge of the terrain included in the proposed campaign.

Toward the end of April 1811, Ohio's Governor, Return Jonathan Meigs, came to Urbana to supervise the setting up of the new military base and to welcome General Hull. He established his headquarters at Benjamin Doolittle's Tavern. Instantly, the seven-year-old backwoods settlement of 250 people was alive with activity. Structures were hammered together to house commissary and quartermaster departments, and those charged with making

military equipment. Local blacksmiths, gunsmiths, booters, wheelwrights, and tailors worked day and night to supply the troops.

Dayton was designated the assembly point of three regiments of recruits being gathered for the Army of the Northwest, and it was there, on May 25, 1812, that General Hull took over his command. On June 1, although its three regiments were not yet filled, the army began the 40-mile march to Urbana. Here it received a ringing welcome, then awaited the coming of the Fourth Regiment of United States regulars, veterans of the Battle of Tippecanoe under command of Colonel Miller.

General Hull, with his staff and an honor guard, waited for the regulars at the Public Square. The soldiers hove in sight on South Main Street, marching at quick step to the accompaniment of martial music, between waving flags and banners. Young ladies threw spring flowers in the path of the advancing soldiers, while all the townspeople cheered and waved handkerchiefs and hats. When the fine-stepping regulars reached the lines of recruits, who stood at attention all the way from the Square to the military grounds, they were saluted with musketry, the roll of drums, and the shrill notes of the bugle, fife, and clarinet. The tumultuous welcome reached its peak on Scioto Street, where a triumphal arch inscribed "Tippecanoe Glory" had been erected. Passage under the arch brought forth salvos from cannon.

A command of "Left Wheel!" took the regulars from Scioto Street to a camping place on high ground to the northwest, where they pitched their tents.

The influx of troops exhausted the resources of the village. Overnight, new taverns and gambling halls were set up to gather the soldiers' shillings. Sale of food, clothing, knickknacks, powder horns, animal hides, bullet pouches, and corn whiskey to the encamped soldiery was the basis of private fortunes of several Urbana residents.

In a few short weeks, General Hull attempted to shape his 1,500 recruits and 650 regulars into a military unit able to cope with the British in the north. The march on Canada, begun a few days before war was declared, proved to be no parade-ground maneuver. The road to battle was through wilderness and swampland. The first regiment, commanded by Colonel Duncan McArthur, had to cut a road from Urbana to the crossing of the Scioto, where Fort McArthur was erected. The second regiment, commanded by Colonel James Findlay, continued the road to the site of present Findlay, where Fort Findlay was built. The third

regiment, under Colonel Lewis Cass, threaded the wilderness with a road to Lake Erie. And so Hull's Trace was laid down.

The main body of troops arrived at Detroit in July. Then General Hull and his army engaged in a maze of secret movements and fruitless sorties and maneuvers; Hull later charged that this period was marked by insubordination among recruits. Hull's own son, it is reputed, was so drunk when crossing Mad River south of West Liberty that he fell from his horse into the river. Thus poor morale was partly responsible for General Hull's surrender of his force of 1,400 men to General Brock at Detroit on August 16, 1812. Not a shot had been fired. The regulars were made prisoners of war, but the recruits were pledged to stay out of the war and permitted to return to their homes.

When news of the debacle at Detroit came back over Hull's Trace, there was gloom along the frontier. Little time, however, was lost by the Federal Government in recriminations and vain regrets; it was not until later that General Hull was accused of treason and cowardice, and convicted of the latter.

Six days after General Hull's surrender, Major General William Henry Harrison, hero of the Battle of Tippecanoe, took command of a new Army of the Northwest. Governor Meigs called for recruits, and soon 1,200 Ohioans under Brigadier General Tupper were encamped on the high ground at the northwestern edge of Urbana. (The camp extended from the present Dugan Bridge to the site of the American Tool and Die plant.) Governor Shelby's contingent from Kentucky, 5,000 strong, encamped at the southeastern edge of town, the right wing extending from the present Urbana tool and die plant to the fairgrounds. Construction of buildings for this new and greatly enlarged Army of the Northwest again got under way.

A local company of sharpshooters was formed by Joseph Vance, Jr.; its members were reputed able to drive a nail at 75 yards. In all, four militia companies were formed in the county. Many of the militiamen, known also as minute men or rangers, were to figure in the decisive battles of the war in the west.

The forces at Urbana soon deployed to battle stations in northern Ohio. Part of Harrison's forces, under General Winchester, were involved in the surrender at Frenchtown on the Raisin River to the British forces of Colonel Proctor.

When news came in May of the siege of Fort Meigs (erected by General Harrison in February 1813 on the Maumee), runners were sent from Urbana to all parts of the State asking that all

able-bodied men arm themselves and proceed to Urbana. By June these assembled forces, with General McArthur in charge, began to march to Harrison's rescue. The seige lifted, however, before McArthur's forces arrived.

The tide of the whole conflict turned quickly. After Perry's naval victory on Lake Erie in September, Harrison and his army, still largely supplied from the Urbana base, successfully moved against Detroit, and on October 5 defeated the British and Indians at the Battle of the Thames. In this battle 58-year-old Simon Kenton, General of Scouts, fought with Shelby's Kentuckians. He had eluded relatives to "join up", slipping out of town after the troops had left. Before the battle, and despite a "bad leg," Kenton had scouted 200 yards ahead of the American Army. This was Kenton's last battle.

Tecumseh was killed in the fray, although Simon Kenton always maintained that the body found on the battlefield was not that of Tecumseh.

In addition to being the place of assembly for troops enroute north, Urbana had served also as a hospital base. The mortally wounded Colonel Richard M. Johnson, who reputedly had killed Tecumseh, was brought here after the Battle of the Thames and given medical treatment on the present site of the Citizen's Bank. The courthouse was likewise used as a hospital.

The local citizenry was joyous at the news of Harrison's victories in the north. Soon, however, the first newspaper, the *Farmers' Watchtower,* published by Blackburn and Moses Corwin (Urbana's first attorney), printed the news of the firing of the National Capitol by a small British expedition. But when Wellington's battle-scarred veterans, fresh from the defeat and exile of Napoleon, landed at New Orleans and were repulsed by Jackson, it was realized that the war was over. In fact, the battle was fought 15 days after the Treaty of Ghent (December 23, 1814) had officially ended hostilities. By the next spring, Urbana's military encampment was gone and the town resumed its normal life.

# PASSING OF THE FRONTIER

After the Indian threat was dispelled by the War of 1812, the Ohio country was settled rapidly. The new immigrants came from the South and also from New England. They were drawn here partly by the tales of thousands of General Harrison's veterans who returned home after the war and spread stories about mile-square corn fields, lush growths of native tobacco, and complete safety from tomahawking Indians.

Many of the newcomers bought land in Champaign County, which was now considered safe for settlement and also was enjoying the prosperity induced by the influx of soldiers during the War of 1812. By 1820 the population had risen to 8,479, although Urbana had less than a thousand people.

Mechanicsburg was platted by John Kain in 1814, and the first church, a carefully built structure of trimmed logs, was erected soon afterwards.

In 1815 ambitious young William Neil arrived from Columbus to accept a position in the bank. Neil was considered lucky, for Urbana had a future comparable, some thought, to that of Cincinnati. Neil awaited good fortune for three years, then returned to Columbus, where he later operated a famous stagecoach line.

One day in 1817, James Demint, fellow Kentuckian of Simon Kenton and founder of Springfield, came to Urbana to play cards. As usual, he interrupted his playing with frequent draughts from an earthen jug. The next morning, early risers in Widow Fitch's tavern found Demint stretched out dead on a bench.

The county folk worshipped in communally built log cabins. St. Paul's African Methodist Episcopal Church, organized in a log

cabin on East Market Street in 1820, was said to be the first Negro congregation north of Cincinnati.

There were only a few schools in the county, and attendance was desultory. Often school was "kept" in the community church, farmers' homes, or even barns. The teacher invariably boarded around the community for part of his small salary; the remainder was taken in produce, livestock, or other farm possessions.

By 1820 nearly every township had a subscription school, in which tuition was required. In 1825 the State General Assembly appropriated a fund for common-school purposes, appointed boards of examiners, and raised the qualifications for teachers. Despite this, subscription schools continued in operation for several decades.

The press, too, began to develop. The pioneer *Watchtower,* founded in 1812 and issued from a log cabin at Church and Walnut Streets, shortly before 1820 became known as the *Spirit of Liberty* under the editorship of Allen M. Poff. This newspaper with a name of great promise was succeeded in 1824 by Daniel Bell's *The Farmer's Friend,* and shortly thereafter by the *Ohioan and Mad River Journal.* The rival *Mad River Courant* appeared about this time, as did the *Urbana News Letter.* They were combined in 1826, becoming the *Urbana News Letter and Mad River Courant.* Five years later this paper merged with the newly established *County Collustrator* as the *County Collustrator and Mad River Courant.*

For years Champaign County was peopled almost entirely by farmers. Its industrial and commercial establishments, though numerous, were naturally small.

Tanneries had been in existence in Urbana almost since its founding, as had carpet looms, smithies, and boot, saddlery, wheelwright, and cabinetmaking shops. During the War of 1812 Anthony Patrick put up a "shop-building" for furniture-making at Kenton and Scioto Streets, which remained standing until 1897.

The first bank in the county was organized in 1814 at Urbana by John Reynolds and Colonel William Ward, who also built the first grist mill. Two years later, John Owens opened the first bank and his brother, Warren, the first hotel in Mechanicsburg. In 1816, also, Reynolds established a woolen mill on East Reynolds Avenue in Urbana, which this year was incorporated as a village and held its first municipal election. Its special cause for civic pride was the new two-story brick courthouse in the center of the Square.

In 1830 the Great Tornado killed four people, tore up houses, floated barns in the air, and scattered debris far and wide. In this year, also, J. H. James' steam grist mill was established and a rail-

road survey crew came into the county. The survey was made and a railroad might have been built, but there was little support for such a novel enterprise. The 1830 census showed the county population as 12,137; that of Urbana, 1,102.

The "canal fever," at its height in the period 1820-40, brought rapid growth to many Ohio towns situated along the canal banks. Conversely, many formerly prosperous towns were left stranded when the canal was dug miles away. Such towns had either to build a feeder to connect with the nearest canal, or suffer financially during this prosperous period in Ohio history. Urbana was confronted with this alternative. In 1832 county-wide discussions were held to decide on whether to build schools or a feeder canal to connect with the Ohio Canal at Columbus. The decision was in favor of the schools.

Establishment of local civil divisions helped to advance educational facilities, since early Ohio education was almost exclusively a matter of local responsibility. Hence, the one-room "district school" remained a familiar community symbol for many years.

The Urbana Stagecoach Company began operating between Sandusky and Cincinnati, via Urbana, in 1833, the year the Ohio-Erie Canal was completed. Half-Way Inn, about six miles north of Urbana, was an important coach stop. Providing almost as much excitement as the new stage, the Urbana Volunteer Fire Department came into existence the same year.

Mad River and Salem Townships were set up in 1805; Union in 1810; Urbana, Wayne, and Concord in 1811; Jackson and Harrison in 1815; Johnson in 1821; Adams in 1827; and Rush in 1828. Besides Urbana and Mechanicsburg, other settlements acquired names and village status. Saint Paris was founded in 1831 in the wake of a school established the preceding year. David Huffman gave the town its start; he furnished land for the townsite, employed Surveyor John Arrowsmith to plat it, and built the first house.

North Lewisburg was founded by Gray Gary in the northeast corner of the county in 1826. Other centers established in this period were Westville (1815), Christiansburg (1817), Woodstock and Springhills (1832), Middletown and Millerstown (1837), and Mutual (1840). Invariably, their first institution was a one-room "district school."

The eventful life of Simon Kenton continued to be bound up with the history of the county. In 1820 he received a farm near Zanesfield as part payment for a home he had sold in Washington,

Kentucky, years before. It comprised 65 acres and a cabin, 18-foot square.

The same year in which he acquired the Zanesfield property, Kenton was jailed in Kentucky. A long while before, he had given a Kentucky friend some land. It was afterwards discovered that Kenton's title to the property was faulty, and the heirs of the man Kenton had befriended sued Kenton and had him jailed. So enraged were Kenton's friends over this application of the Kentucky debtor's law that the legislation was repealed and Kenton released. Simon remained in Kentucky for two years trying to sell remnants of property still held by him there. Returning to Urbana, he was imprisoned under the Ohio debtor's law, but Lawyer Henry Bacon soon effected his release.

In 1827 Kenton's luck seemed about due for a change. The Kentucky legislature returned 80,000 acres of land that he had forfeited for non-payment of taxes. But either the land proved of little worth or the grant was never consummated, for Kenton lived out the remainder of his days a poor man.

In 1830 he was given a United States Revolutionary War pension of $30 a month which was retroactive to 1827. He made his last trip to Kentucky in 1832, the year in which the last of his old enemies, the Shawnee, left Ohio.

In Kenton's last year, Charles Morgan painted his portrait. The end came at the Zanesfield home. Edna Kenton, Simon's grandniece, describes his last moments:

> On the day of his death he said to his good wife, "I have fought my last battle, and it has been the hardest of them all." He lay after that in restful peace, quietly dying through the day, but recognizing the friends and neighbors who came in and out, and in the evening of April 29, 1836 he breathed his last, "like a candle going out."

Kenton was buried at the brow of a little hill above his cabin on the Sandusky Road.

In the fall of that year (1836), Joseph Vance, Jr., son of one of Kenton's partners, became Governor of Ohio. Colonel William Ward, Kenton's other important partner and Urbana's founder, had died in 1822. The old Revolutionary War soldier was buried on the old Ward farm two miles north of Springfield. His grave was soon obscured by a wild plum thicket.

C. H. MARVIN HOUSE (J.Q.A. WARD BIRTHPLACE), URBANA

URBANA PUBLIC LIBRARY
contains memorabilia of Simon Kenton, J.Q.A. Ward, Billy "Single" Clifford, Brand Whitlock, and other famous sons of Champaign County.

OLDEST BUILDING ON THE SQUARE, URBANA
was Governor Return Jonathan Meigs' headquarters
during the War of 1812.

OLD WILLOW DRIVE TO OAK DALE CEMETERY, URBANA
was flanked by trees, the wood from which was used to
make artificial limbs for veterans of World War I.

# O. K.

Although there are other stories about its origin, the phrase, "O. K.", originated in Urbana on September 15, 1840, during the famous "Tippecanoe and Tyler too" campaign.

At that time, General William Henry Harrison himself came to Urbana. A long cavalcade of vehicles and horsemen met Harrison and his entourage on the Piqua road and escorted them to the Public Square. It was estimated that there were 20,000 people gathered in the town. At the grove of John A. Ward in the southwest part of Urbana, a great repast awaited the distinguished guests and the throng assembled from scores of miles around. Tons of barbecued oxen and lamb, together with barrels of cider, weighed down the twelve 300-foot-long tables; the aroma of the cooking, it was said, could be smelled all the way from the square.

In the great parade were gala wagon floats. One included a log cabin, symbolizing "Old Tippecanoe's" humble birth. None surpassed the splendor of John Rock's hay wagon, pulled by 24 horses and adorned by 26 pretty girls in homespun and with bonnets of buckeye-wood shavings. Each girl represented a State in the Union. In the center of the wagon was a sign, three feet long and one foot wide. Pride of Thomas Daniels, a Concord Township carpenter, it read:

*The People is Oll Korrect*

This sentence was immediately seized upon by Democrats to illustrate the ignorance of the Whig party in general and of Harrison in particular. However, an abbreviation of the misspelled

words, "O. K.", caught the public fancy, as did Harrison's homespun personality; and the hero of the War of 1812 was elected with a large popular majority. Champaign County gave Harrison 2,062 votes and Van Buren 1,197.

In 1840 Urbana's population was 1,070, and David Perry started the county's first foundry on Miami Street. The first county fair was held the following year under the auspices of the Champaign County Agricultural Society, organized in 1838. The fairgrounds were along Bloomfield Avenue, on a site just south of the later Illinois car shop grounds, and fairs continued to be held there until 1889.

In 1838 the *Western Citizen and Urbana Gazette* had been organized as a weekly newspaper; eleven years later, it became known as the *Urbana Citizen and Gazette,* and continued until 1896. The *Western Dominion* and the *District Expositor* were founded in 1844 and 1851, respectively, and published for a while.

At this time Urbana's most notable resident was Joseph Vance, Jr., son of Joseph C. Vance, one of Urbana's founders. Joseph, Jr., served in the Ohio legislature in 1812 and in the United States Senate from 1820 to 1836. At Washington he was one of the vigorous proponents of the National Road and State's rights. He was elected Governor in 1837. Six years later he was again elected to Congress, and in 1851 again sat in the Governor's chair.

"The statesman from Urbana" had a sharply defined personality. Slightly under six feet, and heavy of build, he disliked conventionality, particularly in clothes. In public, he wore the usual black cloth suit; loose, standing shirt collar; and bow-knotted, black, string cravat. In his own neighborhood, however, he lounged comfortably in a blouse and jean pantaloons.

He was fond of political talk, and when he was at home, between stints of public service, his massive head with its squinting right eye was often bent in earnest discussion with a group gathered around him.

Two persons of lesser fame at the time were Carter Brand and John Quincy Adams Ward. In 1830 large-framed Carter Brand had come to the county from Virginia, where he had given up a patrimony of slaves because of his abolitionist convictions. He opened a drug store at Mechanicsburg and in 1837 settled on a farm at Buck Creek in the Pretty Prairie neighborhood. Five years later, he was elected Champaign County representative to the Ohio legislature. In 1851 he opened a drug store in Urbana. The collection of books at the Brand home was one of the largest in town, and

the druggist dressed and bore himself with distinction. On the great question of the day, slavery, he was still an uncompromising abolitionist. Townspeople were quick to see that Carter Brand, like Governor Vance, was a man to be reckoned with.

John Quincy Adams Ward, grandson of one of Urbana's founders and son of the man who played host to William Henry Harrison in 1840, was born the year Brand arrived in the county. By the time he was 10, young Ward was astonishing Urbana folk by molding clay images of the heads of friends and animals. The only piece of professional sculpture he had ever seen was a marble copy of an ancient Greek head of Apollo owned by John H. James, of Urbana. This had made a great impression on the youthful sculptor. Later he went to Cincinnati and viewed Hiram Powers' much-discussed nude, *Greek Slave*.

In 1848 Ward's married sister came on a visit from Brooklyn. Noting her brother's work, she persuaded her father to lay aside his plans for a medical career for John and allow her to take him to New York. There young Ward was supposed to see his sister's friend, Henry Kirke Brown, but for weeks, because of bashfulness, he would not call on the noted sculptor. Finally, however, he mustered enough courage to ask Brown to accept him as a student. Brown requested a sample of his work. Overjoyed at the opportunity of being accepted on his merits, young Ward excitedly scurried about, purchasing a copy of Venus de Medici and some clay. These he lugged two miles to his room. When young Ward reappeared, Brown was so impressed by the small clay Venus the shy young man nervously took from its wrapping cloth, that he immediately accepted him as a pupil. This marked the beginning of the career of John Quincy Adams Ward.

In 1842 and in 1847 the dam at the Urbana Woolen Mills broke under heavy rains and caused considerable damage to the community. The woolen mills, representing the leading industry, suffered heavily, but each time the proprietor, John Reynolds, rebuilt them.

During the 1840's, in addition to the woolen mills, Urbana boasted a foundry, two machine shops, twenty stores, and four churches—Associated Reformed, Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian. Henry Howe, the Ohio historian, called Urbana "a beautiful town with some elegant private residences" on its outskirts; these included the James, Fyffe, and Ward homes.

The tumult caused by the dam's breaking was surpassed when the first train came through on July 30, 1848. A celebration was

held and speeches were made. People crowded close and watched the smoke coming from the great squared stack of the engine. Many of those present had made the moment possible by subscribing to the Mad River & Lake Erie Railroad stock. Among these, John Reynolds and other local manufacturers were particularly happy, for this improved means of transportation would increase their business. Farmers maintained that local wheat and pork hereafter would command better prices, and the exasperating chore of driving hogs to distant markets (and thereby reducing their weight) at the gait of eight to ten miles per day would be ended.

Soon the Sandusky-Cincinnati stage line, with its trim, speedy horses and elegant swaying coaches, discontinued operation. There were few sighs for the old days. Nearly everyone thought the shrill whistle of the steam horse as sweet a sound over the prairie as that of the stage horn; by 1850 the steam horse was as O. K. as General Harrison had been a decade before.

# THE PRE-WAR DECADE

Except for its short military glory in the War of 1812, there had been little to stimulate the growth of Urbana. But out in the countryside the land, rolling or level and easy to plow, filled up fast. While Urbana grew slowly, the population of the county as a whole had climbed to 18,782 by the mid-century and nearly all the farm land was being tilled.

The coming of the railroad in 1848 put Urbana in the industrial current of the State. In the new decade, the town experienced its first boom since the War of 1812, and its population rose from 1,394 in 1850 to 3,429 in 1860.

The iron horse also boosted farm profits, for Ohio cities depended largely on shipments of farm produce and new markets were created for perishable foods. Thus the War of 1812 made Champaign County safe to live in, but the coming of the railroad made living here profitable.

In 1849 the county primary and grade schools had been reorganized to conform with Ohio's Akron School Law, which established a uniform curriculum and standards. This date marks the beginning of the local high school.

In the following year Urbana University was founded by the Swedenborgians. Local men mainly responsible for its establishment were Colonel John H. James, Sr., Reverend J. P. Stuart, Milo G. Williams, T. M. Gwynne, and D. Gwynne. Colonel James donated the 10 acres that constituted the original campus. Also called the New Church, the Swedenborgian faith had its origin in the doctrines of Emanuel Swedenborg, eighteenth-century philosopher and religious leader. Most famous Ohio exponent of his

doctrines was Jonathan Chapman (Johnny Appleseed), the almost legendary character who scattered apple seeds in the western wilderness.

From its beginning the New Church was interested in educational problems. Of the two colleges established by the Swedenborgians, the one at Urbana was the first and larger. The aim of the school was "to encourage and promote the diffusion of knowledge, in the branches of academic, scientific and exegetic instruction, and to combine therewith instruction in the productive arts and the practice of rural economy."

Baldwin Hall was erected in 1852, and in the following years the campus was enlarged until it embraced 36 acres of woods and lawn.

In 1853 the "town clock," costing $430, was installed in the Presbyterian Church tower.

There were a number of changes in the local business picture. In 1850 a new woolen mill was built in North Lewisburg by Aaron Winder. Urbana's Champaign County National Bank was founded and Winslow and Company established a steam tannery in 1851. Two years later Zephaniel Luse's pioneer tannery closed down, but Glenn's tannery continued to operate until 1863.

A Democratic paper, the *Ohio State Democrat,* appeared in 1855; in the same year the *Free Press* was established. The *Urbana Union* began publication in 1862. At Saint Paris, in 1870, the *Independent* began functioning, while the first newspaper at Mechanicsburg was the *Review.* The *Boomerang* appeared at North Lewisburg in 1868, lasting a year. All were weeklies.

The 1850's were filled with agitation for or against slavery and State's rights. Champaign County had a heritage of abolitionism. Many of its early settlers from Virginia had emigrated here because of pronounced convictions against slavery, and others from Connecticut and New England were staunch abolitionists.

The Underground Railroad began operating locally in 1856. Adopting railroad parlance, the "road" had "stations," "conductors," and "passengers." Three known stations in the county were at Mechanicsburg, Mingo, and Urbana. Often the secret "managers" were prominent citizens. Entirely secret at first, the road gained so much popular sympathy that many fugitive slaves began to appear openly on the streets.

Southern sympathizers termed the Underground Railroad "organized outlawry" and called upon peace officers to enforce the law. One of the most famous of the Ohio episodes involving a pas-

senger was the Ad White slave-rescue case of 1857, in which Champaign County railroaders played leading roles.

Ad White was a fugitive slave who had found refuge and employment at Udney Hyde's farm near Mechanicsburg. Meanwhile, his former master, ascertaining his whereabouts, sent a posse of Cincinnati men to bring White back to Kentucky. The powerfully built slave, swearing he would never be taken alive, fortified himself in his barn-loft quarters with a rifle, double-barreled shot gun, revolver, ax, and knife. The officials ordered Hyde to urge White's surrender, but the abolitionist refused. Deputy-Marshal Elliot tried to climb the ladder to the loft stronghold, but was shot at; only the deflection of a rifle ball by his shot-gun barrel saved the marshal's life.

Seeing that the Negro was strongly resolved to kill if necessary, all eight of the would-be captors, five of whom were United States marshals, retreated to Urbana to consider further steps. When local officials and citizens failed to give them any support, the officers returned to Cincinnati.

At Cincinnati, Marshals Churchill and Elliot swore out warrants for the arrest of Udney Hyde and three friends, and formed a posse of 14 men. News of their arrival and arrest of the citizens created excitement and opposition in the county. On their way back to Cincinnati, the marshals and their prisoners were twice stopped by habeas corpus writs, but each time the marshals attacked the sheriffs serving the writs, in one instance beating the Clark County sheriff. The journey to Cincinnati, seat of the Federal court, then became a frantic flight for the Federal slave hunters, who were hotly pursued by sheriffs from three counties.

Overtaken in Greene County, the marshals were arrested and brought to Springfield. The prisoners were returned to Urbana and released, since no one appeared against them. Feeling continued to run high. The Federal officers, finally released, returned to Cincinnati vowing reprisal. They immediately swore out warrants for three alleged Underground Railroad managers and John Doe warrants for Mechanicsburg, Urbana, Springfield, and Xenia citizens who, they claimed, participated in their capture.

Although almost the entire populace of Urbana was ready to fight, the arrested abolitionists decided to make a test case. The defense secured the best legal talent available in Ohio. The cases of Udney Hyde and Carter Brand were selected as illustrating two points at issue—Hyde had refused to arrest a fugitive slave and Carter Brand had interfered with a Federal officer.

The trials lasted nearly a year, with the jury unable to reach a verdict. By this time all participants were tired of the litigation, and Ad White's owner offered to withdraw from the case if he were paid $1,000 for his slave. The money was raised by public subscription, and all the remaining cases were dropped by the Government.

Such spectacular episodes increased anti-slavery sentiment, and working for the Underground Railroad became a noble occupation. Ad White did chores for Udney Hyde during the day and served at night as a conductor on the road.

Farmers of Concord Township founded a division of the Know Nothing Party, later called the American Party, in 1854. Basing its program on political proscription of naturalized citizens and Catholics, the Know Nothings gained remarkable power in some isolated sections of the county. However, just before the Civil War, the party was completely crushed by its evasion of the slavery issue.

Politics and the "Great Issue" were not the only lively interest of the town. In 1856 Joseph P. Fyffe, son of a local doctor, was decorated by Queen Victoria. Fyffe had entered the Navy at the age of 15 (1847), served during the Mexican War, and risen rapidly from the ranks. In 1856 he volunteered for the Grinnel Expedition, which searched the Arctic regions for the Sir John Franklin party. For this service to the Crown, England's Queen conferred upon Fyffe the Arctic Order of Victoria. During the Civil War, Fyffe was made a rear admiral in the United States Navy.

The railroads were increasing their activity. Tracks of the Columbus, Piqua and Indiana Railroad reached Urbana in 1853 and Piqua the next year. It was not until April 4, 1859, however, that the first train came through from Columbus to Indianapolis. Thereafter, county citizens, whose investment in the road amounted to nearly $250,000, awaited impatiently for profits.

The fierce iron horse, with its clangor, steam, and smoke, brought some semblance of a boom. Old industries expanded and new ones started. Minturn and Allen continued to improve their Hussey reapers: where four horses had been required to pull the clumsy original machine, now only two were necessary. Moneyed men, such as Nelson and Kaufman, furnished capital to make the improved machine. Gobel and Allen, too, began to manufacture a reaper. Urbana saw itself as a center for making farm machines. But when Minturn and Allen got caught in a cross-current of patent-infringement suits filed by reaper inventors, including Hussey and McCormick, the firm quit business. The other concerns also dis-

appeared, and Urbana's dream was ended. It remained for near-by Springfield to become the reaper capital of the world.

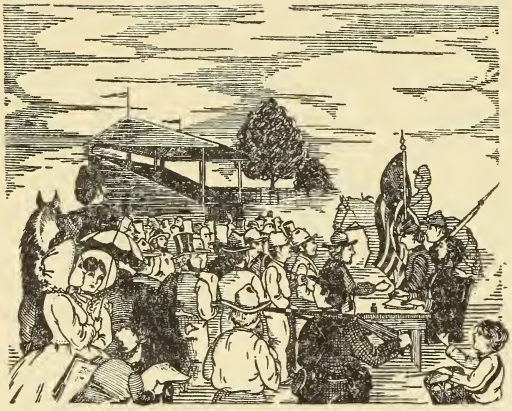
In the same period, D. and T. M. Gwynnes' steam cooperage on Russell street began to manufacture steam engines with the help of a skilled mechanic named Wilcox. The concern won first prize at the 1854 State fair and was very successful until the 1857 panic. More fortunate was the Warren and Gaumer Company, founded in 1854, which made carriages until the advent of the automobile. In 1857 W. T. Busser started Urbana's first cigar factory, and in 1859 Joseph Wiley and James Brown erected the first planing mill.

The old Reynolds woolen mill was now operating under the firm name of Reynolds and Ross; and it had several thousand spindles. The Patrick Cabinet Company was another concern that had continued from pioneer days.

In number of establishments, flour milling was the county's largest industry. In 1850 there were 15 mills, employing 30 persons. Most of these plants were run by water power or by horse-driven treadmills. Next to flour mills, lumber mills were the most numerous; there were 10 in the county. Boots and shoes, carriages, and stoves were products of the remaining 57 manufacturing establishments, whose aggregate employment in 1855 was 243 workers.

Broom making began locally in 1859, when the Urbana Broom Company on West Church Street and the White Valentine Broom Company at Russell and Gwynne Streets were founded. The White Valentine concern had the larger plant, employing 60 men from the very outset. By the eighties Urbana was producing more brooms than any other community in the Nation.

This industrial development was soon disturbed by the preoccupations of the battlefield. Champaign County was not wholly in favor of the Civil War. Its heritage of abolitionism and hatred of war counteracted each other. Besides, strong family ties existed between descendants of Virginia settlers and their relatives in the South. The diversity of sentiment was partly evidenced in the 1860 election, the county giving Lincoln 2,325 votes, Douglas 1,810, and Bell 564.



# THE WAR YEARS AND AFTER

By mid-January, 1861, three Southern States had followed South Carolina's secession from the Union and others were on the brink of joining the Confederacy. Like most Northerners, many Urbana citizens were outraged. A "huge mass meeting attended by nearly all the thinking members of the community" was held on January 17. In its excited atmosphere, such subjects as the Fugitive Slave Law, partial permission of slavery in the South, and State's rights drew the fire of debate, but there was unanimity in the resolution:

> We, the people of the town of Urbana, are unalterably and forever attached to, and in favor of the supremacy of the constitution, and all the laws passed in pursuance of it and the union of these states; and for the maintenance thereof against all attacks from all quarters, we pledge to each, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.

When news came that Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor had been fired upon and taken on April 14 by South Carolinians, Champaign County added its voice to the North's cry of "Down with the Rebellion!" The next day, President Lincoln's call for 50,000 volunteers came over the telegraph wires. The President's proclamation was read aloud at hastily organized meetings. Martial music sounded on the main streets of Urbana, Mechanicsburg, and St. Paris. Volunteers began to gather at Urbana. Two days later the county's first contingent, assigned to the Second Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, was mustered into Federal service at Columbus.

In another two days the men were on the way to the battlefields. They drew fire at Vienna, Virginia, on June 17 and on July 21 took part in the battle at Bull's Run.

Frank Ganson was the first volunteer, and the small village of Woodstock contributed eight men to the first contingent. Most of the initial Champaign County recruits were in Company K, 2nd Ohio Volunteer Regiment; both its captain, William Baldwin, and lieutenant, Thomas F. Brand, were from Urbana. The men had volunteered for three months, but nearly all re-enlisted in the 2nd Ohio Volunteers, and many took part in their regiment's final battle at Peach Tree Creek before Atlanta in 1864 and in Sherman's march to the sea.

There was a steady stream of enlistments. Many April volunteers joined the 13th Regiment forming at Camp Jackson. The first large contingent, however, enlisted in June and July with the 26th Ohio Volunteers, commanded by Urbana's Edward F. Fyffe. The entire Company B of Ohio's 32nd Regiment, organized in August and September at Mansfield, was composed of Champaign County boys mainly from the Mechanicsburg neighborhood. Company 1 of the Ohio 42nd, formed at Camp Chase, near Columbus, was made up of local men, a third of whom were from the Saint Paris vicinity.

There was also a mustering-in at Urbana proper. In October the 66th Ohio Regiment was organized at Camp McArthur, situated at the Champaign County Fairgrounds, south of town. It drew more local men than any other regiment, and was considered "Champaign's own."

In the first draft, ordered on October 6, 1862, the county was excused, having already exceeded its quota with 1,705 volunteers out of 4,112 men of military age. Rallies urging enlistment were continued, and soon the regiments in which Champaign County men fought were augmented by the 66th, 85th, 86th, 95th, 113th, 3rd Ohio Cavalry, 12th Ohio Cavalry, and a number of others.

In spite of the county's heavy contribution of men, there was considerable Southern sentiment. It was inspired chiefly by the proximity of Dayton's Congressman, Clement L. Vallandigham, leader of the anti-administration Copperheads. In the county Vallandigham's nation-wide underground organization, Knights of the Golden Circle, was strongest in Adams, Jackson, and Johnson Townships, with Carysville the central point of agitation. It caused the western section of the county to dodge the draft, encouraged seditious speakers, questioned motives of Northern industrialists,



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and maintained that the war was an excuse for hatred and destruction.

The Knights were branded as traitors. Undeterred, the organization staged many demonstrations against later drafts, one incident resulting in the calling up of the Home Guards (1863), who shot freely, killing one and wounding twenty. Despite such opposition, Carysville pacifists continued to dodge the draft, questioned Lincoln's sanity, and spread apocryphal tales concerning General Grant's sobriety.

Owing to disclosure of some of their secrets and Vallandigham's banishment to the South and later to Canada, the Knights of the Golden Circle took the name of the Order of American Knights in 1863 and became the Sons of Liberty the following year. At its peak the organization is estimated to have had more than 300,000 members in the country. An ambitious attempt in 1864 to free Confederate prisoners resulted in collapse of the organization and exposure of many of its leaders.

During the war years, when its young men were with the colors, Urbana University closed its doors. Urbana Academy, which had been established in 1820 and discontinued a quarter-century later, reopened in 1861. It was not until 1870, when the administration of President Frank Sewall (1870-86) took over, that the University resumed its operation.

The war ran its tragic course. When news came of Lee's surrender at Appomattox Courthouse on April 9, 1865, the *Citizen and Gazette* (April 13, 1865) clarioned:

VICTORY

LEE SURRENDERED

HIS FORCES LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS

That evening all the citizens of Urbana and countryside converged on the public square. Bonfires were lighted, church bells rang ceaselessly, and guns boomed. A wagon, festooned with bells, was dragged to and fro through the streets, followed by National Guard companies discharging guns. The volunteer fire department demonstrated its water-throwing ability. A great float depicted the drama of Lee's last stand. Shyrigh's and Kinston's military bands marched up and down playing the martial airs, with a group of jubilant Negroes trailing behind them.

A week later the *Citizen and Gazette* contained grimmer tidings. Its front page had a border of black, while black lines ran through its center. Its columns told of President Lincoln's assassination. Black bunting replaced the flags and banners on the courthouse.

On the night of April 29, 1865, the shrouded train bearing Lincoln's body passed through the county on its way to Illinois. The train reached Woodstock at 10 o'clock and paused briefly. Bells were tolled and the Woodstock Cornet Band played a dirge and hymn, while ladies strewed flowers on the casket of the martyred President. At Cable, in the wavering light of a huge bonfire, a large crowd and a soldier holding a flag awaited the train.

When the train reached Urbana at 10:40 p. m., three thousand people were gathered at the station. On an elevated platform supporting a large evergreen-wreathed cross, a mixed chorus of 40 voices sang the hymn, "Go To Thy Rest." Bonfires had been lighted nearby. Guns were fired in salute, and ten young ladies entered the car and placed flowers on Lincoln's bier.

Saint Paris was the last stop in the county. Flags draped the station, brilliantly illuminated by many torches. The large crowd stood with bowed heads as a large wreath was placed in the funeral car.

There was a closer and more personal sorrow in the wake of peace. Of Champaign County's 3,235 men in the Union Army, 578 never returned. Death in battle took 151 lives, 78 died of wounds, and 48 died in prison camps; disease took 292, drowning 3, a steamboat explosion 6. Throughout the long summer, parents, wives, and sweethearts looked down country lanes and streets for returning boys in blue. By Christmas the total casualty list was known.

Carter Brand, one of the most prominent local abolitionists and Republicans, had been a vigorous campaigner for the election of Abraham Lincoln. When the war began, Governor Dennison had enlisted him to organize a local company for the Ohio 66th Volunteer Infantry. Offered the company's command, he accepted a captaincy instead, serving in the Army of the Potomac, Hooker's Army of Tennessee, and Sherman's forces. Before Sherman made his famous march, Captain Brand was appointed to the commissary department in Washington. At the Capital he was introduced by his old friend, Salmon P. Chase, now Secretary of the Treasury, to Abraham Lincoln. His famous grandson, Brand Whitlock, in his autobiography, *Forty Years of It,* describes this meeting:

> It would be his old friend Chase who presented him to the President, but their conversation was soon interrupted by the entrance of an aide who announced the arrival in the White House grounds of an Indiana regiment passing through Washington, which, as seems to have been the case with most regiments passing through the Capital, demanded a speech from the President. And Lincoln complied, and as he rose to go out he asked my grandfather to accompany him, and they continued their talk on the way. But when they stood in the White House portico, and the regiment beheld the President and saluted him with a lifted cheer, the aide stepped to my grandfather's side, and much to his chagrin—for he had been held by the President while he finished a story—told him that it would be necessary for him to drop a few paces to the rear. It was a little contretemps that embarrassed my grandfather, but Lincoln, with his fine and delicate perceptions, divined the whole situation, and met it with that kindness which was so great a part of the humor and humanness in him, by saying, "You see, Mr. Brand, they might not know which was the President."

After the war, Mallie Brand, Carter's pretty daughter, met Elias B. Whitlock, who, after graduation from Ohio Wesleyan University, had come to Urbana in 1866 as principal of the high school. A romance blossomed between the handsome teacher and "the Major's daughter." Mallie encouraged her suitor in his religious inclinations, and by the time they were married, young Whitlock had determined on a career as a Methodist minister. On March 4, 1869, the day Grant was inaugurated as President, a son was born to the young couple at 510 South Main Street. He was named Brand.

Brand Whitlock's artistic and political achievements belong to a later period. Meanwhile, an earlier native son had already achieved recognition. Hardly had J. Q. A. Ward left his New York teacher, Henry Kirke Brown, than his busts of Senators Hale and Hamlin, Joshua R. Giddings, and Alex H. Stephens, executed in 1857-58, established him as a promising American sculptor. In 1861 he opened his first studio in New York. Later he completed *The Freedman,* a statuette of a Negro looking at the cut shackles at his feet, and *Indian Hunter,* one of the first statues to be placed in New York's Central Park. These pieces were acclaimed by

American critics and exhibited at the Paris Exposition of 1867. There followed other triumphs: *The Good Samaritan* in the Boston Public Gardens; a statue of General John F. Reynolds at Gettysburg (1872); General Israel Putman at Hartford (1874); and General George Thomas at Washington, D. C. (1878). In later years he further confirmed the critics' designation of him as "the foremost of all American sculptors."

All the artistic talent of the Ward family was not centered in John Quincy Adams Ward. A brother, Edgar M. Ward, was a well-known painter. *The Coppersmith* has found a place in New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art and *The Block Maker* is in the National Art Gallery at Washington. *The Sabot Maker* was purchased by the French government.

After Appomattox, the collapse of the Southern slave economy and the return of multitudes of soldiers to industry threw the economic structure of the country off balance. Champaign County had its share of the hard times. Although many families had moved to Springfield and Cincinnati when the war industries clamored for workers, Urbana's population had increased from 3,429 in 1860 to 4,276 in 1870; but this increase was below that of the preceding decade. In 1868 mistaken supposition that its population was 5,000 enabled Urbana to incorporate as a second-class city.

The towns and villages of the county were developing. At Mechanicsburg, in 1868, a steam-powered mill and a bank were opened, with Edward Stuart the founder of the mill and Richard D. Williams, of the Farmers' Bank. New clapboard and brick structures went up along the main street, and the business section extended itself around corners.

From 1854 until 1865 Kentucky and Ohio had contested in court and legislature for the body of Simon Kenton. Kentucky was not discouraged in its claims by the fact that 16 Kenton kin had fought against the South in the Civil War. In 1865 Ohio emerged victorious; its legislature passed a bill designating Urbana as the permanent resting place of the remains of Simon Kenton, and $5,000 was appropriated for a monument. So Simon Kenton was returned to the familiar haunts of his middle years.

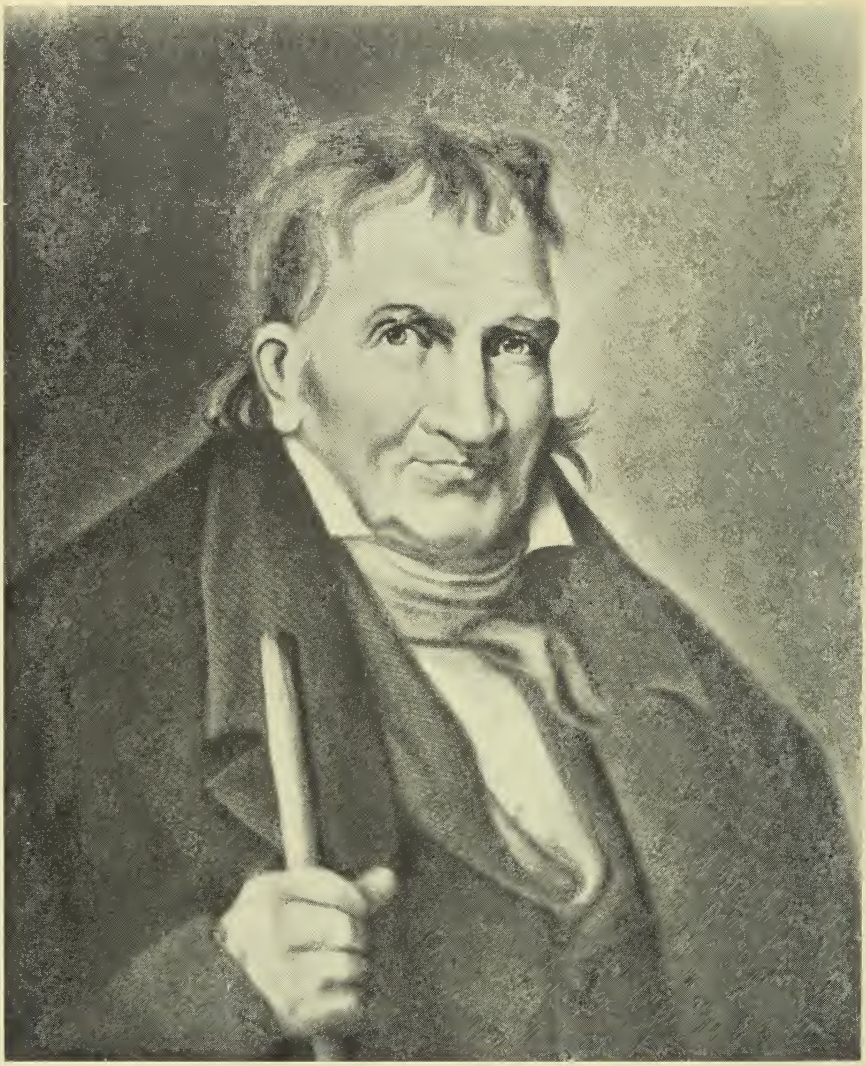
In 1866 a great fire that endangered a large part of Urbana consumed the saw mill and lumber yard of Strayer, Stafford and Company and the door factory of Green and Ackerman. Both factories were rebuilt. A new industry was gained with the establishment of the Heiserman and Aughinbaugh carriage factory, soon employing about 30 men.

Urbana's educational facilities were expanded in 1864, when North, Southwest, and Central Schools, all four-room buildings, were erected at a cost of $4,200 each. In 1867 the young American Volunteer Fire Company sported one of the first compression hand fire pumps.

Organization in 1866 of the Grand Army of the Republic and Union Veterans of the Civil War met with great favor. The county district was commanded by Major Carter Brand; Urbana district by Colonel William R. Warnock; Saint Paris by Major Samuel T. McMorran; Mechanicsburg by Major Joseph Swisher; and Woodstock by Captain Oliver Colwell. Almost every former Union soldier joined the G. A. R., which for a long time was the largest organization in the county.

Dedication of the Soldiers' Monument in 1871 brought Rutherford B. Hayes, Governor of Ohio and later President of the United States, to Urbana as the principal speaker. Plans for the occasion dated from 1865, when T. D. Jones, an artist, had proposed the erection of such a memorial. Subsequent meetings, followed by a mass meeting, resulted in the naming of a committee comprising Major Joseph C. Brand, F. M. McAdams, Thomas McConnell, A. C. Dauel, and J. B. Armstrong. It was proposed to raise $10,000 by public subscription, but the drive was only partly successful. By 1870 the granite base of the monument was completed, but its statue was still missing. At this juncture, Banker J. B. Armstrong, president of the Citizens' National Bank (founded in 1865), took things in hand, selecting the figure of a cavalryman from designs of the National Fine Arts Foundation, New York. The statue was cast from a bronze Civil War cannon, and Armstrong paid $1,100 to insure its delivery. The town council voted $1,000 to prepare, landscape, and fence the site. Finally, on December 7, 1871, to the accompaniment of a 36-gun salute and the cheers of a crowd of five thousand, the heroic figure on the Square was unveiled.

J.Q.A. WARD'S *HUNTER AND HIS DOG,* URBANA PUBLIC LIBRARY



SIMON KENTON

SIMON KENTON GRAVE, OAK DALE CEMETERY, URBANA

WHITLOCK MEDALLION, URBANA PUBLIC LIBRARY
was designed by Godefroid Devreese and presented to
Brand Whitlock by Albert, King of the Belgians, for
meritorious service during World War I.

## *GRANDFATHER BRAND AND BRAND WHITLOCK*

Before the Civil War the farm had been the main center of Ohio life; after the war, towns and cities with industrial activity came to the fore. By the end of the century, Ohio's urban population for the first time exceeded the rural population. Following the general trend, Urbana's population increased from 1870 to 1900, while that of the county outside its limits declined. The county population of 27,817 in 1880 was the peak figure from that date to 1940.

The pioneer period was definitely ended. Landowners Ward and Kenton had been dead for decades. In 1872 Moses Corwin, first lawyer and publisher of the first newspaper, and Henry Weaver, Urbana merchant and "the richest man in the county," died. Six years later, Hugh Bay, the county's last veteran of the War of 1812, died at Mechanicsburg. The generation that had arrived when Urbana was still "a new town" had passed away.

A $60,000 school structure was built in Ryan's Woods in 1874. During its first year, 63 pupils attended the high school. It was some time, however, before the townsfolk stopped grumbling at the distance of the school from town. New school buildings were also erected at Westville and King's Creek.

The first paid Urbana fire department, a bucket brigade company, was organized in 1872. Six years later, when the first water works was installed, Urbana boasted a fire engine. Two horses drew the mammoth engine, which could throw a stream of water when steam was up. Two men were employed part time and a chief was appointed full time to attend the gayly colored apparatus. The new engine, water works, fire plugs, and bath rooms gave a definite city air to the county seat.

The venerable courthouse was also affected by these times of innovation. Since the Civil War there had been constant agitation for a new building. But the 1839 structure remained intact until 1879, when it was remodeled at a cost of $24,000. On June 24, 1880, the *Champaign Democrat* paid editorial tribute to the glorified edifice, concluding: "We do not know of a building that is better adapted for the purpose intended than the Urbana Courthouse." It was not until 1894 that the town clock was placed in the new tower of the structure.

Progress also came to other towns in the county. A new city hall was built at Mechanicsburg in 1878; it cost $13,000 and surpassed the Urbana town hall in elegance. In the next year, gas lights were installed in Mechanicsburg.

The seventies saw the further development of the press. The *Daily Union,* established in 1875, was the first daily; it had descended from the *Urbana Union,* founded in 1862. The *Urbana Citizen & Gazette,* first issued in 1849, continued publication. In 1880 the *Champaign Democrat* was established; three years later, it was purchased by Dr. T. M. Gaumer. (The Gaumer family was prominently identified with local publishing until the 1930's.)

As in the crusade against slavery, the fight on the saloon found early support in the county, especially among women and church folk. From near-by Springfield, "Mother" Thompson often came to harangue on the evils of liquor, and noted Dio Lewis appeared here occasionally. When the women's praying crusade began in 1873 at Hillsboro, Ohio, Champaign County women joined in the new strategy. In Urbana, 225 recruits, in bands of 15, beleaguered saloons such as the Little Gem on Main Street. At one time, when they were particularly aggressive, the ladies closed 12 of 23 saloons; at Westville, a prayer and hymn-singing campaign closed all the saloons except one. When the Women's Christian Temperance Union was organized (1875), local ladies lost little time in forming chapters. However, in spite of the tireless and valiant fight of the women, there were saloons in the county until 1906.

The entire country was developing industrially. The United States Steel Rolling Stock Company, at the north city limits near the Pennsylvania and Erie railroad tracks in Urbana, was most attuned to the new era. Organized in 1875, it was the city's first successful large-scale industry, and it established a precedent for other machine-shop plants. Products of the factory, soon called the "old rolling-stock," were locomotives and freight and passenger cars.

Other concerns were born, held great promise for a time, then somehow became extinct. One of these, the Urbana Machine Works, organized in 1870, resulted from the joint efforts of 30 citizens, who bought its $50,000 worth of capital stock. Its first products were the Excelsior Steel Plow, the Daugherty Waterwheel, and the Excelsior Grain Drill. When the waterwheel proved unsuccessful, the firm turned to the making of turbine wheels invented by Urbana's E. S. Small. Barn's corn planter and a sulky plow were also added to the list of products. The plow proved the best seller, and in 1875 nearly 1,500 plows were produced. Meanwhile, however, large sums were spent developing the waterwheel, and when the panic of 1877 came, despite the success of the plow and the grain drill, the company failed. The drill was acquired by a Springfield concern that made a fortune out of it, contributing in part to Springfield's growing reputation as the farm machinery capital of the country. All that remained to Urbana was the Excelsior plow, the production of which was continued by other concerns.

Other Urbana foundry and machine-products businesses in 1880 were the Buckeye Foundry and Machine Shop, Excelsior Cast Steel Plow Works, and M. H. Crane & Co. (manufacturer of stoves and hollow ware). At Mechanicsburg, Jacob Creamer, inventor and manufacturer, made Creamer's Improved Mole Ditching Machine, while the Mechanicsburg Machine Company manufactured the Baker Screw Feed Grain Drill.

There was a sizable carriage- and wagon-making industry. In Urbana, Miller, Thomas and Company manufactured Steward's Patent Dumping Wagon, and Warren & Gaumer constructed carriages and buggies. Edward Fry and J. W. Millett made carriages in Saint Paris; carriages, buggies, spring wagons, and sleighs were made by Pence and Hendrichson at North Lewisburg, by N. P. Hewitt at Woodstock, and by Culbertson and Barr at Mechanicsburg.

The most specialized industry in the 1880's was the making of brooms. By this time the White-Valentine and Urbana Broom companies employed more than 200 workers. Dominating the local industry from 1878, when he came from Pennsylvania, was David S. Perry.

In this and its future period of industrial growth, Urbana differed little from other small American cities; its greatest fame rose from the artistic achievements of its residents. In the early 1870's Hjalmar Hjorth Boyesen, recently from Norway, came to

Urbana University as a tutor in Greek and Latin. Here he completed his first novel, *Gunnar,* a story of Norwegian life, which successfully launched Boyesen on a literary career and took him from Urbana in 1873.

In the mid-seventies, after serving an appointment as consul at Nuremberg, Germany, Major Carter Brand returned to Urbana. He furnished his house with mahogany furniture and filled the dining room cabinet with Dresden china. The German poets, Goethe and Schiller, were well represented in the study bookcase, while a piano brought from Berlin stood in the parlor. Over the windows were heavy green window shades, with colorful friezes at their bottoms depicting scenes along the Rhine. In the garden and on the front lawn Major Brand resumed the growing and careful tending of roses.

Brand was elected mayor for four successive terms. He was an honored man to the townspeople and a great hero to his visiting grandson, Brand, who on a summer afternoon would wait patiently as Grandfather Brand took a nap behind the drawn Nuremberg shades. If undisturbed by youthful frolicking, Grandfather Brand, on awakening, would give Brand a five- or ten-cent script, or "shinplaster," which would buy the best striped peppermint stick and succulent chocolate drops to be found on the Square.

After his nap, Mayor Brand would dress as befitted an Ohio mayor under recent European influence. His low buckled shoes glistened and his black broadcloth suit was neat and in correct contrast to a stiffly starched white waistcoat with buttons of pearl. In summer, a few of these buttons would be left open. A long gold watch chain was fastened to the second buttonhole from the top, making a casual line of golden elegance across the black cravat, or at least the part not obscured by a white beard of the President Grant style. Surmounting the mayor's thick white hair, carefully combed and then finger-rumpled to give a "savage aspect," was a large Panama hat yellowed by several seasons.

Sometimes Brand Whitlock would be permitted to join his grandfather on the leisurely journey to the town hall. In his autobiography, *Forty Years of It,* he later described one of these occasions on a summer day in 1879, when he was ten. His account is a vivid description of Urbana at that time:

> I was walking on his left hand, near the fence, but as we entered the shade of the elms and shrubbery of the Swedenborgian church yard, I went around to his other

side, because a ghost dwelt in the Swedenborgian church yard. My cousin had pointed it out to me, and once I had seen it distinctly.

The precaution was unnecessary, for I had long known my grandfather for a brave man. He had been a soldier, and many persons in Urbana still saluted him as major, though at the time he was mayor; going up town, in fact, meant to go to the town hall before going anywhere else. In the shade he removed his hat, and taking out a large silk handkerchief, passed it over his red perspiring face.

It was, as I have said, a hot afternoon, even for an August afternoon, in Ohio. Main Street, when we turned into it presently, was deserted, and wore an unreal appearance, like the street of a dead town that was painted on the scene at the "operahouse." Far to the south it stretched its interminable length in white dust, until its trees came together in that mysterious distance, where the fairgrounds were, and to the north its vista was closed by the bronze figure of the cavalryman standing on his pedestal in the Square, his head bowed in sad meditation, one gauntleted hand resting on his hip, the other on his saber-hilt. Out over the thick dust of the street the heat quivered and vibrated, and if you squinted in the sun at the cavalry man, he seemed to move, to tremble, in the shimmer of that choking atmosphere.

The Town Hall stood in Market Square, for, in addition to the Square, where the bronze cavalryman stood on his pedestal, there was Market Square.

Market Square was not a square, however, but a parallelogram, and on one side of it, fronting Main Street, was the town hall, a low building of brick, representing in itself an amazing unity of municipal functions. There, in an auditorium, plays were staged before a populace innocent of the fact that it had a municipal theater, and in another room the city council sat, with representatives from Lighttown, and Gooseville, and Guinea, and other faubourgs of our little municipality. Under that long low roof, too, were the "calaboose" and the headquarters of the fire department. Back of these the structure sloped away into a market-house of some sort, with a public scales, and broad, low, overhanging eaves, in the

shade of which firemen, and the city marshall, and other officials, in the dim retrospect, seem to have devoted their leisure to the game of checkers.

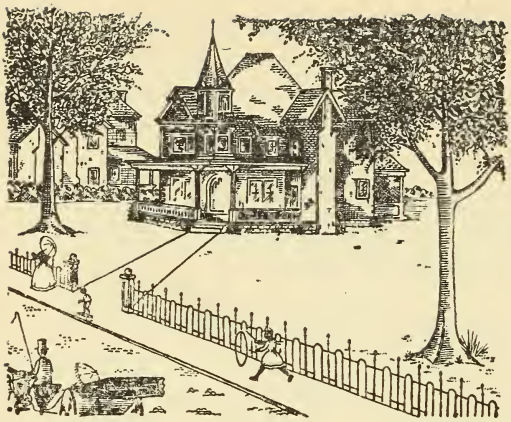
On the opposite side of Market Square there was a line of brick buildings, painted once, perhaps, and now of a faint pink or cerise which certain of the higher and more artistic grades of calcimining assume, and there seems to have been a series, almost interminable, of small saloons—declining and fading away somewhere to the east, in the dark purlieus of Guinea.

Here, along this line of saloons, if it was a line of saloons, or if it was not, along the side of the principal saloon which, in those wet days, commanded that corner, there were always several carts, driven by Irishmen from Lighttown, smoking short clay pipes, and two-wheeled drays driven by negroes from Guinea or Gooseville. These negro drivers were burly men with shining black skins and gleaming eyes and teeth, whose merry laughter was almost belied by the ferocious, brutal whips they carried—whips precisely like that Simon Legree had wielded in the play in the theater just across the Square, now by a stroke of poetic justice, in the hands of Uncle Tom himself. But on this day the firemen were not to be seen under the eaves of the markethouse; their checkerboards were quite abandoned. The mules between the shafts of these two-wheeled drays hung their heads and their long ears drooped under the heat, and their black masters were curled up on the sidewalk against the wall of the saloon, asleep. The Irishmen were nowhere to be seen, and Market Square was empty, deserted, and sprawled there reflecting the light in a blinding way, while from the yellow dusty level of its cobbled surface rose, wave on wave, palpably, that trembling, shimmering, vibrating heat.

After his father was ordained a Methodist minister in 1874, Brand lived in a number of Northwestern Ohio towns—Delaware, Findlay, Kenton, Defiance, and Bellefontaine—where Reverend Whitlock served. By the time Brand was of high-school age the Whitlocks moved to Toledo, where the boy completed his formal schooling. Previously, he had attended Urbana Academy, where

the Du Ponts—T. Coleman, Ermon, and Anthony—were among his schoolmates.

During his visits to Urbana, a great part of Brand Whitlock's literary, political, and idealistic inclinations were formed, for Grandfather Brand exerted a powerful influence. Brand Whitlock was to be noted for the qualities that characterized his grandfather and also his father—carefulness in dress, liberalism, humanitarianism, tolerance, and a love of good literature.



# *EMINENT CITIZENS IN A DECOROUS AGE*

By the mid-eighties, in addition to its growing county seat, Champaign County had a number of thriving towns. The largest of these, Mechanicsburg, with a population in 1880 of 1,522, had lived up to its name, boasting several industries of a mechanical nature. By 1886 these were familiar industrial names in the town: W. F. Downey, manufacturer of grain drills, employing 150 hands; Hastings Paper Company, 46; Stuart & Nickel, flannel maker, 13; Packham Crimping Company, producer of tinners' tools, 10. Several concerns manufactured wood and flour products and stove-pipe crimpers.

Mechanicsburg was also the site of the Central Ohio Fairgrounds. A natural amphitheatre enhanced the beauty of the grounds, said to be the finest in the State. In the fall, at "fair time," farmers and visitors converged on Mechanicsburg from scores of miles around. In dry spells the grounds and town were covered with a patina of dust; but no one cared, for the highjinks at the fair compensated for everything.

Saint Paris, next largest town, reached a population of 1,100 in 1880. It was proud of its creamery, carriage making, planing, and grist-mill industries and the rich surrounding farm lands. A bank and two newspapers, the *Era-Dispatch* and the *News,* added to the community's importance. Organized religion here, as at Mechanicsburg, was represented by various denominations; the town had seven church structures.

In 1880 North Lewisburg achieved an all-time peak population of 936 persons. A carriage factory and flour and lumber mills supplemented its activity as the center of a stock-raising and agri-

cultural region. A bank, newspaper (*Republican Tri-County Free Press*), and five churches, including a Quaker group, were the major institutions of the community.

The bleak village and "district" schoolhouses were being supplanted with large, two-story structures with elaborate bell cupolas and as many as 10 rooms. The first of these new buildings arose at Christiansburg in 1886 at a cost of $63,000; five years later, a new school, costing $67,000, was built at Westville. In 1892-94 new buildings were erected at Salem ($67,000) and Woodstock ($69,000).

The appearance of Urbana also was changing, though the mud in the bogs of Urbana streets still came to a horse's knees in rainy weather and fetlock-deep dust often blanketed the streets in summer. Guests at the elegant Weaver House (now Douglas) still complained about these conditions. Nevertheless, Urbana's population rose to 6,252 in 1880, a 10-year increase of nearly two thousand. A third bank, the National Bank of Urbana, was organized, with Colonel Frank Chance as its president. New additions extended the corporate limits, and there were now about ten factories in the city.

## II

After the Whitlocks moved to Toledo, Brand Whitlock completed his formal education in a Toledo high school. There followed four years as a reporter on the *Toledo Blade* (1887-91) and then a stint as political reporter on the *Chicago Herald* (1891-93).

At Chicago he married Susan Brainerd, who died four months later. In 1895 Whitlock married Susan's sister, Ella. In his years on the *Herald,* the young journalist covered everything from household fires to homicides and the Chicago World's Fair; even more important, he was under the tutorship of editors of some literary skill and he found stimulating friends who turned his footsteps in new directions—George Ade, Ben King, and Peter Dunne.

Associates described him as a tall, thin, and very earnest young man, called "Skinny" by the other reporters. When offered the job of police reporter, he astonished the city editor and staff members by replying that he would "think it over." Then he refused the advancement, stating that he preferred to write politics, which might "lead somewhere." His judgment was good, for when John Peter Altgeld was elected governor of Illinois, he asked Whitlock to become his secretary. Whitlock, however, countered with a request for a clerkship in the Secretary of State's office, and Altgeld

appointed him to this position (1893-97). His friendship with the liberal governor continued, and it was Whitlock, in his official capacity, who prepared the pardons that Altgeld signed to free the last of the Hay Market Riot prisoners. This courageous action on the part of the governor released a storm of controversy that later resulted in Altgeld's political decline.

Whitlock now began the study of law, and in 1894, the year in which he met Clarence Darrow, he was admitted to the Illinois bar. It was literature, however, and not law that the two discussed. The famous criminal lawyer carried one of Whitlock's first short stories back to Chicago from Springfield, Illinois.

After Altgeld lost political favor, Whitlock returned to Toledo and opened a law office. Here he again fell under the spell of a great political idealist, the city's celebrated mayor, Sam ("Golden Rule") Jones. Mayor Jones discerned in the young attorney, who was now adviser to the Ohio Humane Society, sterling qualities. Soon he was deputizing Whitlock to sit in the place of absent municipal judges.

But Whitlock had not given up the thought of a literary career. A few years later he made use of his political background in a novel, *The 13th District,* and still later he drew on the Champaign County locale for his famous Macochee stories.

On Saturdays Whitlock would take a train to Urbana to visit his grandfather over the week-end. In the fall of 1896 the old man died and Whitlock came to Urbana for the funeral.

Shortly before his death Major Brand had espoused the cause of Bryan and free silver, turning his back on the Republican Party, as his grandson had done nine years before. So Major Brand died as an apostate of his political faith, but his grandson later wrote: ". . . on his coffin were the two things that expressed him best, I think—his roses and his flag."

The career of one of Urbana's sons had ended; another was in its zenith. When the National Sculpture Society was organized in New York City (1898), John Quincy Adams Ward was unanimously selected its first president. Russell Sturgis, noted art critic, wrote, "In Ward we have the first American sculptor in this important matter of constructional, expressional and harmonized design in the placing and grouping of human figures."

By now Ward had executed a number of fine sculptures; among the most notable were *General George H. Thomas,* at Washington; *Lafayette,* at Burlington, Vermont; *Washington,* at the subtreasury on Wall Street; *Pilgrim,* at New York's Central Park; *General*

*James A. Garfield,* at Washington; symbolic figures around the capitol cupola at Hartford, Connecticut; *Poetry* for the rotunda of the Library of Congress at Washington; a pedimented group for the New York Stock Exchange Building; *Emancipated Slave* at Cincinnati; and *Commodore Perry, Henry Ward Beecher, Admiral Dewey,* and other statues at a number of cities.

In 1884, when a suitable location was found for Simon Kenton's tomb in Oak Dale Cemetery in Urbana, Ward was commissioned by the State legislature to design a monument to the frontiersman.

John's brother, Edgar, also had advanced. In 1880 he became Professor of Drawing and Painting at the National Academy of Design in New York, serving until 1909.

Besides the Wards and Brand Whitlock, Urbana was proud of Robert A. Eichelberger, noted painter. Although born in 1861 at Fletcher in near-by Miami County, Eichelberger was educated and spent his early youth in Urbana. His first artistic efforts were made in Urbana, and on visits home, Edgar Ward, husband of young Eichelberger's sister, Isabella, had encouraged and guided him. In 1880, Eichelberger went to Europe, studying in Munich and Paris. Five years later he returned to New York and opened a studio.

Eichelberger's canvases showed talent; critics liked especially his canvases of the sea. He seemed on the verge of popular acclaim and looked forward to the great New York exposition of 1890 and its exhibit of paintings at the Fifth Avenue Art Gallery, for he was sure that his canvases would be received with favor. They were, but Eichelberger did not live to know that his work had been selected over that of more than two hundred other artists. Eichelberger died at East Hampton, Long Island, April 2, 1890, in his twenty-ninth year. The April 28, 1890, issue of the *New York Sun* observed:

> It is surely no injustice to any other canvas in the room to name first the "Surf and the Fog" of Mr. Eichelberger. Its border of crepe hints at a pathetic story. Here was a young painter, who in two or three years, had won himself a high place in the estimation of his fellows. Then he creates a masterpiece, and, as the last touches are given, died from exposure while at work—killed by the sharp breath of the sea which he was painting as it had never been painted before.

Woodstock contributed Warren S. Cushman (1845-1926), painter, to the county's artistic roster. In 1893 at the Chicago World's Fair, Cushman's *Spanish Dancing Girls* won high acclaim. Among his outstanding canvases were a portrait of President Hayes and canvases with Biblical subjects.

One other person should be included in any account of Champaign County's contribution to beauty. In 1893, Nellie Helmick, the Champaign County entry at the Chicago World's Fair Congress of Beauties, was pronounced "the most beautiful girl of the land."

## III

In the bountiful decades that ended the century, the residential architecture of the county underwent great change. War and war profits had made possible elegant, spacious houses. For the most part, these homes were of the "gingerbread type," full of decorative detail, with jutting bays and turrets, steep gables, and large porches touched up by elaborate jigsaw devices. These big houses were built in Urbana, Mechanicsburg, Saint Paris, Woodstock, and even the loneliest of farm neighborhoods.

Pride in the possession of a fine house, "genuine horse-hair" furniture, sleek carriage and horses was accompanied by agitation for public improvements. Of these, paved streets seemed the most difficult to get, and although, by the 1890's, innumerable wagon loads of gravel had been dumped in Main Street, no actual paving was done.

The height of Victorian structural splendor in Urbana was reached in 1890, when the new City Hall was built—the culmination of repeated efforts to persuade voters that a new municipal building was necessary for a "growing city." The three-story brick, stone-trimmed, massive-towered structure contained a "City Theater," an auditorium that was to seat several generations of citizens. Central Ward High School, erected in the same year, was pronounced "the most advanced of school buildings"; nine years later, South Ward High School was added to the school system.

Urbana Public Library was founded in 1890 by 14 civic-minded ladies who met at the home of Mrs. J. H. Patrick. From this simple beginning came the present institution at West Market and Walnut Streets.

At Main and Market Streets, Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, erected in 1879, soon became a landmark. Three years later the Baptists erected a $25,000 structure on Court Street. Catholics improved their church building in 1880, Swedenborgians in 1884,

and Lutherans in 1886. The Baptists, Presbyterians, and African Methodist Episcopalians also had church buildings. The Urbana Camp Grounds, southeast of the city, were among the most commodious in the State, having several hundred cottages and an auditorium seating 3,500 people. Many Chatauquas were held there.

Urbana University was still graduating young people, and Curry Institute, a normal and scientific school for Negro youth, moved to Urbana from Mechanicsburg in 1897. It had been founded by Professor E. W. B. Curry, one of Ohio's first Negro educators. Professor and Mrs. Curry, who comprised the teaching staff of the new school, modeled the school along the lines of Booker T. Washington's Tuskogee Institute.

In the same year that the Curry Institute was welcomed to Urbana, Charles Mitchell, local Negro awaiting trial for criminal assault, was lynched. Although there seemed little doubt of Mitchell's guilt, Urbana's citizens deplored the lynching—and the resulting notoriety.

Another important event of that year was the discovery of an extensive series of caves on the northern edge of the county. It was soon apparent that the county had gained a tourist attraction, for the mile-long subterranean passages drew people from all over the countryside. At first the place was called Ream's Cave, after the farmer on whose property it was situated. Later, as the fame of this caprice of nature spread and sightseers from afar paid admissions to visit the phenomenon, the name was changed to Ohio Caverns.

Following northwestern Ohio's great gas boom of the eighties, natural gas lights were installed in Champaign County homes. A gas line was laid to Urbana in 1891 from the Mercer County field, and soon town ladies were happily laying aside the oil lamp and kitchen coal scuttles and wood boxes.

Scarcely had the gas light arrived when the electric light appeared. One day in 1895, Edward Elliott, Chicago promoter, stepped briskly from the train at the Urbana station. Within several hours citizens became aware that local capital was behind Elliott in the establishment of an electric plant. Also, it was rumored that an electric railway would be built from Springfield.

A new marvel made its appearance in 1898 when the Urbana Telephone Company installed the first local "talking boxes." Capitalized for $25,000 and holding a 25-year franchise, the company began operating with 400 subscribers. By 1901 it had 1400 subscribers, with the Mechanicsburg, Saint Paris, North Lewisburg, and Cable neighborhoods boasting exchanges.

There were other innovations. The rails of the Detroit, Toledo and Ironton Railroad reached the county in 1893, touching Rosewood and Saint Paris. Rural free delivery of mail was inaugurated on January 2, 1899. Now the Victorian finery of Chicago mail-order houses was available in picture form to winter-bound farmers' wives. Moreover, the building of the traction line made it possible for both Urbana and country folks "along the line" to go to Springfield to see the city sights.

New industries were established. The W. H. Marvin Food Company, wholesale food concern, was founded in 1886 by Marvin and J. F. Brand. In 1890 the firm turned to the preparation and packing of raisins, currants, mincemeat, gelatin, and date pudding. In the same year, the Armbruster Cigar Factory was established on Sycamore Street, and many an Urbana urchin pressed up against its large front window to see cigar rollers stripping and twisting tobacco leaves into long fat cigars. In 1891 the Barlow Kent Company, maker of furniture, moved here and soon was employing more than 80 workers.

A more important industry, in the light of its future prominence, came the next year, when the Urbana Straw Board Company (later the United Paper Board Company) was founded, with a capitalization of $40,000. In a short time it was producing 12 to 15 tons per day of paper board for egg cases and shoe boxes. An auxiliary concern, the Urbana Egg Case Company, was also established. In 1894, the Ohio Straw Board Company (later absorbed by the paper trust) was founded by local men.

The Desmond-Stephan Manufacturing Company, founded in the last year of the century, later turned out fine-precision injectors, ejectors, and emery-wheel dressers.

Of the several manufacturing concerns, the United States Steel Rolling Stock Company (later the Illinois Car and Equipment Company) was the largest. In a typical year (1886), it employed as many as 355 workers, more than the total in the several broom factories. The principal broom factories were Perry and White (72 hands), J. H. Fuller (32), and J. J. Robinson & Sons (9).

The heightening era of big business and commerce brought Moore's Business College to Urbana in 1899; it was started by J. W. Moore in the Weaver Building, and its several typewriters excited great curiosity.

In 1887 Dr. T. M. Gaumer again acquired the *Champaign Democrat,* and the longest line of family newspaper ownership was

re-established. The rival Republican paper, the *Urbana Citizen & Gazette,* was acquired by the Urbana Publishing Company and capitalized for $42,000 in 1896.

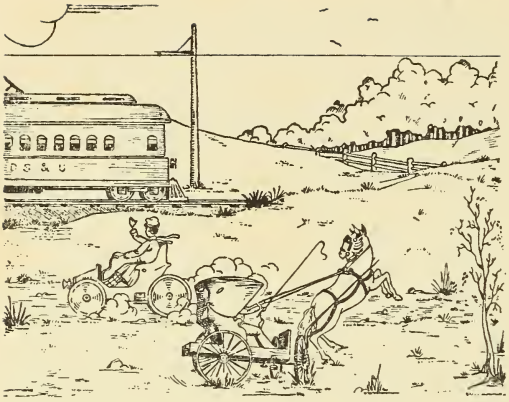
The sinking of the Battleship *Maine* in Havana Harbor (February 15, 1898) lighted the tinder of nationalism here as elsewhere. When war was declared against Spain (April 21-25), the county sent 108 men to join in the struggle, forming Company D of the Third Ohio Infantry, organized on April 26, at Columbus. The war was soon over, and the only places in which the Champaign company bivouacked were Florida and Alabama training camps; the boys were mustered out on October 26. At home, during the four months, "patriotic ties" were advertised by merchants; and parades and bonfires at Urbana, Saint Paris, North Lewisburg, and Mechanicsburg marked the news of victories at Manila and Santiago and the war's end on August 12.

Victory brought even better times than before. Industries were merged into gigantic corporations, and utilities and traction lines were financed with great quantities of stock. Champaign County, too, was touched by this Midas period. Everyone felt that Urbana was bound to grow. Many people invested in the future of a city, county, and country that they felt were coming into their own. The old century had seen remarkable transformations, and everyone believed the coming years held even greater promise.

The last New Years' Eve of the old century was the greatest that Champaign County had ever celebrated. Not only were the times prosperous, but there was also a larger assortment of church bells to ring and industrial whistles to toot. To this the recent war with Spain had added a surplus of small fire arms and an occasional carbine to help drive out the old century and welcome in the new.

At Urbana, whose population had reached 6,808, church folk gathered quietly for services and simple entertainment. Other people thought the occasion warranted less restraint; and a sedate observation appeared later in the press: "Never in local history had liquor flowed so freely."

The dry question had already been brought to public notice by the efforts of the local chapter of the Women's Christian Temperance Union and the new Anti-Saloon League to oust the saloon. When the Haskell (local option) Bill had come up for a vote at Columbus in 1895, the Champaign County representative had been threatened with political ruin by the legislative boss of the liquor interests if he voted for the bill. Although the bill had passed, Champaign County was still celebrating in the old-fashioned way.



# CENTENNIAL PERIOD

Most of Urbana's present industrial concerns were established in the early years of the new century. The first was the Johnson Brothers Company, organized in 1902 to make railroad tinware, such as oilers, buckets, and torches. In the following year, the McCoy Canning Company, capitalized at $100,000, was founded, and in 1904 the Urbana Packing Company was incorporated.

The largest industrial firm, the Howard Paper Company, was formed in 1910 and capitalized for $500,000. The original output was 30 tons of paper per day, and more than a hundred people were employed. Almost from the start, the company established its tradition of fine paper making.

Another industry, the making of machine tools, got under way in 1912, when the James K. Cheetham Company (now the Urbana Tool & Die Company), producing tools, dies, and auto parts, was established in the recently abandoned woolen-mills building on East Water Street. Further carrying out Urbana's evolution as a small tool and die center in a state that holds first rank in the industry, the American Tool & Manufacturing Company came here in 1914. Organized by H. P. Creighton and Phillip Schneider, it began operations in the old Gaumer carriage factory; later expansion caused removal to the Niles Sanatorium Building. In the following year, the W. B. Marvin Company was organized to manufacture metal stampings and related products. Capitalized at $100,000, the new concern occupied the former American Telephone Company Building. Times were auspicious for these new enterprises, for soon American industry was asked to fill huge World War orders.

The old industry, broom making, languished, although as late

J.Q.A. WARD'S *INDIAN HUNTER,* URBANA
is a replica of one in Central Park, New York City; it
marks Ward's grave in Oak Dale Cemetery.

TACK ROOM, PARSHALL STABLES, URBANA

WINTER TRAINING, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, URBANA

PETER ASTRA, DRIVEN BY DR. HUGH M. PARSHALL,
WINNING THE HAMBLETONIAN,
GOSHEN, NEW YORK, 1939

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS WARD STUDIO, NEW YORK CITY

as 1915 the Urbana Broom Company was producing a minimum of 175 dozen brooms daily. Other former concerns, however, were still doing a good business; among them were W. H. Marvin Company, processing foods, and Green Halter Company, making horse rigging.

Nothing was thought more representative of twentieth-century progress and the new electrical age than the coming of the interurban line in 1901. The Dayton, Springfield & Urbana Electric Railway Company had been incorporated as early as 1895, but operation through Urbana had been discouraged by bickering among the company, the city council, and the county commissioners over a franchise and a bridge over Main Street. On April 10, 1901, the *Springfield Republican* observed: "A crowd of Urbana people came down last night over the D. S. and U. to attend dances in the city." This excursion marks the beginning of the time when a trip to Springfield on the interurban "just for the fun of it" was an exciting Sunday adventure for local beaux and their sweethearts.

In 1902 the line's capitalization was increased to $1,500,000, and a road to Columbus (via Springfield) was projected. Meanwhile, an even more direct route to the capital was in prospect for Urbana folk, for the Columbus, Urbana and Western Electric Company had been incorporated in 1900 for two million dollars, and another line was proposed via Mechanicsburg. The new C. U. & W. had completed only a few miles of line from Columbus when the Urbana goal was abandoned, but the Urbana, Bellefontaine & Northern Railroad Company, incorporated in 1901, was more successful. By 1903 its traction cars were serenely sailing down North Main Street, making "hourly connections" with the Springfield cars. In the same year, in the southwest corner of the county, the Springfield, Troy, and Piqua interurban line began serving the Christiansburg neighborhood. All the local traction lines were merged with the Indiana, Columbus & Eastern Traction lines in 1906, and subsequently with the Ohio Electric system.

The interurban was a great boon to farmers along its route, who often shipped produce in the cars. The song of the trolley was a gentle noise that relieved the tedium and did not disturb the livestock, and at night the cars broke the dark loneliness with a fleeting passage of light.

Carriage horses had hardly accustomed themselves to the hum of traction cars sliding by, when a new contraption required their reining in. In 1903 there appeared the first local gasoline buggies, moving with chugging, explosive vehemence. Not only the horses,

but also their owners were disturbed. George Nincehelser, for example, wrote in the *Citizen and Gazette,* after his horses ran away: "If the country is to be infested with this common nuisance, let them do as the electric lines do, build their own roads and keep off the public highway." Ten years later there were 450 automobiles in the county, and the horseless carriage was a commonplace.

Although gravel surfacing had largely eliminated spring and winter mud, even the gravel-surfaced streets were unsatisfactory for the automobile. So the paving of Reynolds Street from South Main Street to Russell Street with tarvia macadam (1912) was considered as important a triumph as was the building of the county's first macadamized road in Goshen Township the year before. The brick paving on the square was dedicated at a celebration on October 31, 1914; local folk boasted that this was the second largest paved expanse in Ohio.

Woodstock, with 315 people in 1910, had experienced a slight decline in population. In 1907, however, it had acquired a $10,000 bank building and a newspaper, *Rush Light,* published by Fred T. Crawford.

Urbana's most disasterous fire occurred in 1901, when an entire block on North Main Street burned; nine business houses and factories, valued at $85,000, were destroyed. But times were good, and the year was scarcely out before new structures arose over the ashes.

In the same year there came other disturbing news. The second marriage of Lottie Piehler (1901), a former assistant in Clarke's millinery establishment and ex-wife of Kid McCoy, noted pugilist, prompted the *Democrat Times Citizen* to observe: "Miss Piehler was very popular here, being very pretty and winsome, and the news of her marriage will have a depressing effect in some quarters."

Social life in Urbana was full of gaiety. The Terpsichorean Club held dances, and the Gentlemen's Driving Club gave matinee races at the fairgrounds. Millinery openings were a popular diversion of the ladies; and Springfield merchants enticed the Urbana trade by advertising free round-trip interurban tickets to Springfield, while Urbana merchants countered this move through a "Buy in Urbana" campaign.

The Urbana Commercial Club, forerunner of the Chamber of Commerce, was organized in 1901, the year when the first Chautauqua pitched a huge tent for a week of "educational and wholesome" entertainment at the Urbana Camp Meeting Grounds.

Urbana had been a good show town ever since the Civil War, and it contributed several sons and daughters to the American theater. At the Market Street Theater (1890) townspeople witnessed such melodramas as *Human Hearts, Shore Acres,* and *The Old Homestead.* The Clifford Theater was erected in 1905, and in the same year, the first moving pictures were shown in a store room on Main Street. The novelty was small competition, of course, to the flesh-and-blood troupers who enlivened Monument Square. In 1907, William Clifford Shyrigh, Urbana's foremost gift to the stage, was at his zenith, opening in Washington in the leading role of *The Jolly Baron.* At 16, Billy "Single" Clifford left Urbana and his drum in his father's drum corps and joined a circus. In time, he became a stellar comedian, dancer, and singer in musical comedy, vaudeville, and the famed Al G. Field Minstrels. The Gish sisters, Dorothy and Lillian (born at near-by Springfield), lived on East Reynolds Street from 1901-13, when they began their careers. Lillian's stage debut, at 6, occurred at Rising Sun, Wood County, in *Convict Stripes;* subsequently, she appeared in child parts with Sarah Bernhardt and Mary Pickford in New York productions. Dorothy first performed as Little Willie in *East Lynne.* In 1913 the two sisters turned to the cinema, becoming film stars.

More than a score of other competent entertainers called Urbana their home. George Marsh, as Moats, was a headline clown for the Ringling and Robinson circuses. Frank LaRue, a noted character actor, and Charles Ogden trod the boards of the legitimate stage. Denton Crawl, Ernest Wilson, and Leon Roth were vaudeville stars, while Eddie Clifford, Elmer Fritz, and Walter Wolfe were minstrels. Among the women performers on the legitimate and musical-comedy stage were Margaret and Daisy Dills, Iris and Helen Kennedy, Mary and Dorothy Courey, and the Bailey sisters. Edward and Molly Leau, trapeze artists, and Charles Pence, acrobat, were other examples of the versatile local talent.

Saint Paris was the home of Al Thatcher of the minstrel shows, while Odell Williams and William Owen, comedians, hailed from Mechanicsburg. In addition, the county contributed its share of front-office and back-stage personnel.

In the "off season," many theatrical folks lived at the Urbana Hotel, which was owned by the Kennedy family, long identified with the theater. New "tab shows" were rehearsed at the Clifford or on the third floor of the hotel during almost every summer from the era of the gas-lamp circuits and "Tom" shows to the day the

movies became popular. The proximity of Springfield's Gus Sun, theatrical impresario and vaudeville booker, also contributed to Urbana's stage tradition.

The Champaign County Centennial Celebration was held July 4-6, 1905. Urbana was decorated brightly, and the elaborate program included speeches by Vice-President Charles Warren Fairbanks and Governor Myron T. Herrick. A grand military pageant, in which Ohio National Guard units participated, was the big event. Other features included nightly fireworks; a baseball game between Urbana and Columbus collegians and also a league (Springfield vs. Fort Wayne) contest; horse races at the fairgrounds; and a Grand Parade, "miles long," with four bands, including the famed Springfield Cadets and the Saint Paris Band. The railroads gave excursion rates to Urbana, and it was estimated that 25,000 people were in town on July 4. John Quincy Adams Ward, who could not be present, donated a deed to ground on Storms Avenue to be used for a public park. An unscheduled $30,000 fire at the Barlow-Kent furniture factory added to the Centennial excitement on July 5.

Urbana University, like most denominational schools of its time, had endured a hard financial struggle. In 1900 T. Coleman Du Pont, a member of one of America's wealthiest families, became a trustee of the school. Seven years later the endowment was swelled by a gift of $400,000 from the estate of Eliza O. Rope of Massachusetts, and a larger place in the educational world was envisioned for the small school among the stately oaks.

Curry Institute also seemed ready for better circumstances. It was situated on a 50-acre tract one mile south of the city on the new traction line. In his 10 years at Urbana, Professor Curry had made many speaking tours in its behalf. Tuition had been lowered, and the school had adopted a cooperative work plan.

In 1910, after considerable debate, the city bought out the privately owned water works. Two years later a sewage-disposal plant, designed to serve a city of 14,000, was installed.

In 1910 the county commissioners had let a $100,000 contract to dredge the Mad River, which almost annually flooded its valley bottom lands and capriciously changed its course. However, when the 1913 flood came, the deepened channel, with leveed banks 26 feet apart, was of little avail, and much damage was caused to bridges, land, and property. Undiscouraged, the commissioners dredged again, finally subduing the river currents.

In 1910 the Gaumer Publishing Company, which issued the *Champaign Democrat,* was incorporated. Three years later it began

thrice-weekly publication of the *Urbana Democrat.* The paper became a daily in 1915. The *Urbana Daily Tribune* was launched by John H. James in 1907, but in 1910 it and the *Urbana Daily Times-Citizen* were purchased by the Urbana News Company, owned by Frank C. Gaumer and George McConnell, and merged with the *Urbana Daily Citizen.*

Five years after he had presented Urbana with the land for a public park during the Centennial Celebration, death stilled the hands of John Quincy Adams Ward. His body was brought from New York to Urbana, and honors were given it befitting a distinguished son. The mortal clay of the sculptor was placed in beautiful Oak Dale on a slight knoll overlooking the town.

Five years later another distinguished son of Champaign County died—Mechanicsburg's Joseph Wing, more familiarly known as "Alfalfa Joe" or the "Alfalfa King" because of his books and lectures on alfalfa. The Wing family had moved to Mechanicsburg in 1866, when Joseph was a child; subsequently, he spent his early youth on a large cattle ranch in Texas, where he became interested in alfalfa culture. On his return he introduced this profitable crop to Ohio. Wing wrote extensively for the *Breeder's Gazette,* and also penned many books, including *Alfalfa in America, Meadows and Pastures, Foreign Fields,* and *Sheep Farming in America.* He was a member of the American Tariff Committee sent by President Taft to study the Argentina wool industry. After his death in 1915, a Joseph Wing memorial fund was begun; eventually it resulted in the Wing Memorial Library at Mechanicsburg.

When Toledo's mayor, "Golden Rule" Jones, died in 1904, Urbana-born Brand Whitlock made the principal address at his funeral. City leaders; Cleveland's mayor, Tom Johnson; and the crusading journalist, Lincoln Steffens, urged Whitlock to take up the municipal fight where Jones had left off. Although opposed by strong party candidates, Whitlock was swept into office on a nonpartisan platform. He was re-elected to four successive terms (1905 - 13).

By now the social contribution of Brand Whitlock was well defined. As a lawyer he stood for a humanized legal procedure, for prison reform, and against capital punishment. He strove for home rule, public ownership or non-monopolistic control of utilities, and an efficient and economical operation of government. His partisanship was guided by idealism and a desire for good government rather than a greed for personal or political reward. He

dreamed of "the free city," which he described in the *Saturday Evening Post* of June 5, 1908, as a place where people were not in the grasp of special-privilege groups.

As mayor, Whitlock carried on the traditions of his famous predecessor. The working man was assured a fair deal, and the administration of justice was humanized. When an ice monopoly weighed heavily on the poor, its yoke was lifted. This was only a minor joust compared to the mighty battle that Whitlock waged with the street railway interests. His success in curbing their reaching out for excessive fares brought him national recognition. In 1913, because of his record as mayor, he was awarded the gold medal of the National Institute of Social Sciences.

Whitlock was one of the prime movers of the 1912 convention that liberalized Ohio's constitution. Together with Cleveland's Newton D. Baker, he drafted the constitutional amendment that in the next few years secured for Ohio certain reforms—compulsory workmen's compensation, mothers' pensions, home rule, the eight-hour day on public works, and abolishment of prison contract labor.

As a literary craftsman, Whitlock brought a rare talent to the problems of reform. His first novel, *The 13th District* (1902), dealt with the subtle forces of corruption that assailed the political office holder. Ex-President Grover Cleveland pronounced it "the best political novel ever written." *Her Infinite Variety* and *The Happy Average* appeared in 1904. Perhaps his best work in these years was *Turn of the Balance* (1907), a sharp indictment of the social and penal injustices that he had noted as a jurist in Toledo's police court. Jack London wrote that he was "deeply stirred" by the book. *Abraham Lincoln,* a biography published in 1908, was followed two years later by *Gold Brick,* a collection of short stories. In the same year, *On the Enforcement of Law in Cities* appeared and shocked professional reformers from their complacency. By 1913, Whitlock had written nine books; the latest was the delightful autobiography, *Forty Years of It.*

Whitlock was often undecided as to which career—literary or political—he should accord his best efforts. As early as 1906, he had written Theodore Dreiser: "My duties as Mayor interfere, in a way, with my writing, but still I am learning a great deal and getting, as you can imagine, an abundance of excellent material. Thank you so much for your faith in me: I hope the day will come when I can do nothing else but write."

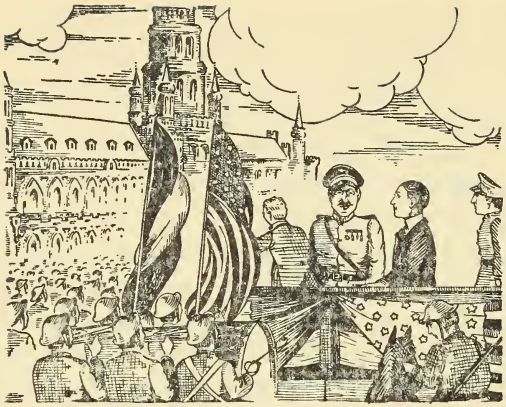
Whitlock's decision to quit as mayor of Toledo, announced after election to his fourth successive term, was largely prompted

by this desire to devote all his time to writing. He therefore accepted the post of Minister to Belgium, to which he was appointed on December 22, 1913, by the scholarly President Wilson, because he considered it a haven in which, between occasional official duties in quiet Brussels, he might live the literary life with little interruption. Events would soon indicate that he could hardly have selected a more inauspicious time and place for a creative existence.

News of the assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his morganatic wife was buried in Urbana papers among items concerning completion of the disposal plant and the first strip of street paving. The ensuing declarations of war, however, received banner headlines, though only a few great national dailies were concerned with possible American involvement.

Brand Whitlock was at the Villa Bois Fleuri, a few miles from Brussels, when news of the war came; he wrote in his journal:

> August 1, 1914, I was awakened suddenly out of a sound sleep this morning by loud insistent knocks at my door. I got up; it was six o'clock; I opened the door and there stood Omer in uniform—the rough blue tunic, linen pantaloons, and the little bonnet de Police. He stood at attention, his hand at salute.
>
> *"c'est la guerre, Excellence."*
>
> The words, of course, were superfluous. Omer standing there, ready to depart, was somehow the symbol of the thing we had feared for a week. He was in a hurry; he had to get to town, report, and go to Liege at once. I fumbled through my clothes and gave him all the money I had, while he told me the latest news—the Germans had entered Luxembourg and were throwing down the bridges. I told him I might have him excused; but no; "I shall do my duty," he said. I shook his hand; he smiled in the tender gentle way he had, and went down the stairs. . . .



# KHAKI AND KINGS

In 1915, while European armies were locked in a mighty struggle, Champaign County folk were quarreling about the dry question. Local option had made the county dry in 1906 - 8, but periodically the whisky interests, in alliance with local wets, had agitated for the return of the saloon. In the 1915 contest, when Urbana drys won by only 112 votes, the temperance forces advertised in the local newspapers: "It is easier to keep the saloon from the boy than to keep the boy from the saloon." Two years later, when national prohibition was won, the county voted dry by a 1,228 margin, at the same time rejecting woman suffrage by 527 votes.

The automobile made hard-surfaced streets and highways increasingly desirable, and good-road agitation had almost the fervor of the drys' fight against the saloon. In 1915 Main Street was paved, and widened from 45 to 50 feet. The prosperous war years stimulated the auto industry, and in 1917 a special automobile issue of the *Democrat* contained advertisements of 19 makes of cars.

The first local concerns to use motor trucks were the Murphy Lumber and the Egg Case companies. In 1915 Urbana's first motor fire truck was bought; the ornate $5,000 vehicle partly supplanted the city's fire horses. A $15,000 bond issue for complete motorization of the fire equipment was passed in 1919.

Another institution, the one-room schoolhouse, was passing. The Champaign County centralized schools were among the first in the State. In 1917 Mad River Township's centralized school was completed and the township sold its eight one-room schoolhouses. Urbana Township also adopted centralization, and it introduced the first school bus in 1918. Ever since 1897, when Diebort School pupils were transported to Kings Creek in school wagons,

various degrees of centralization had been in force in Mad River, Adams, and Concord Townships, with Adams the first to have complete centralization (1911). By 1917, 85 wagons were used to transport school children, and only 17 one-room schools were left. In the 1911 - 17 period, many new school structures were built. These included buildings at Rosewood ($30,000), Concord Township ($25,000), Salem Township ($35,000), Woodstock ($27,000), North Lewisburg ($25,000), and Jackson ($30,000).

Local industry boomed in the war years. The machine-shop-products plants and the paper and paper-board establishments were particularly busy. New enterprises included the Mohrlite and Oil Refining and Development companies, capitalized in 1916 for $50,000 and $1,000,000 respectively, and the Urbana Furniture Company, incorporated in 1917 for $50,000. Another new industry was represented by the Eagle Glass Company.

These facets of community growth were soon overshadowed by America's entry into the war. From its beginning the World War had been front-page news in the county's newspapers, with war pictures as common as patent-medicine ads. Local folk also were interested in the meager reports they secured about the doings of Brand Whitlock and John H. James. The third generation to bear the name and live in the ancestral home on High Street, James served the State Department in the momentous years of 1913 - 17. His duties consisted of collating and preparing the department's interpretations of international law for transmittal to American diplomatic representatives throughout the world.

On April 7, the day after President Wilson signed the War Proclamation, Brand Whitlock cabled his mother, Mrs. Mallie Whitlock, 132 W. Reynolds Street, from Berne, Switzerland: "Love, all well." Since that fall day in 1914 when he had seen Belgium overrun by war, the American Minister to Belgium had lived a far more exciting life than that of any of his fictional characters. He had become one of the historical figures of the war.

There are a good many parallels in the careers of Brand Whitlock and Carter Brand. The grandfather had participated in the Civil War, served four terms as mayor of Urbana, and held a diplomatic post. His grandson's life had run a similar course through more conspicuous posts. However the grandfather, in his diplomatic post at Nuremburg, Germany, had escaped the Franco-German War of 1870 - 1 by a few years. Brand Whitlock was not so fortunate. The Germans thrust at France through Belgium, and Whitlock found himself in the midst of the bloodshed.

Wythe Williams wrote of Whitlock in the *Saturday Evening Post*: "I knew he was a real diplomat. There was no need to wonder about it. He looked the part. To secure proper recognition for his dexterity, his subtlety and his finesse he should have arranged to have been born somewhere east of Suez, rather than in Ohio." In the prayers of the Belgium people, three people were always remembered: "The King, the Cardinal, and the Minister."

When war broke out, Minister Whitlock, on request, had taken over the interests of a half-dozen belligerents, including France, Britain, and Germany. He helped organize hospitals, secured quarters for refugees, facilitated the return of German citizens to their homeland (via Holland), and organized soup kitchens and clothing stations. Along with others, he had successfully pleaded that Brussels be made an open city, saving it from destruction by the invading Germans.

On October 16, he wired President Wilson: "In two weeks the civil population of Belgium, already in misery, will face starvation." Thereafter, Whitlock was the prime force in the establishment of the Commission for the Relief of Belgium. Later this agency that fed the starving Belgians with American food shipped through the British blockade was headed by Herbert Hoover, but for a year and a half all its wheat was sent in Whitlock's name.

In his short biography of Whitlock, Allan Nevins writes: "The Belgians regarded him as a stone wall between their pitiful helplessness and the harshness of their military rulers." The Minister would go to the markets every morning at 5 a.m. to see that the German military authorities did not strip the Belgians of foodstuffs; his was the only authoritative non-German voice in the country that had weight with the military autocracy.

Although severely ill at the time, Whitlock was one of the behind-the-scenes figures in the celebrated case of Nurse Edith Cavell. Apprised of the arrest of the English nurse who had helped English soldiers escape from Belgium, Whitlock had immediately arranged for defense counsel. But as was the custom in a German court martial, the lawyer was not permitted to see the prisoner and was forced to prepare his defense while the court martial was being held. At the American legation, Whitlock kept the wires to the German authorities busy. Nevertheless, when sentence was reached, the American legation was not informed. But at 8:30 p.m., October 11, 1915, a friend of Edith Cavell hurried to the legation with news that the court had pronounced sentence; the nurse was to be executed by a firing squad at daybreak.

Whitlock acted quickly. He sent the legation's secretary, Hugh Gibson, to find the Marquis of Villobar, Spanish Minister and Whitlock's good friend. Then he sent a message to the German Governor, General Von Der Lancken, beseeching him to commute the sentence or postpone the execution. Gibson and Villobar gave the message to Von Der Lancken. But it was to no avail. The next morning Edith Cavell was led before a firing squad and shot.

Brand Whitlock wrote in his journal of the reaction at Brussels:

> This morning placards are posted all over town, announcing the execution of that awful sentence, the horror of which hangs over us all. To us, somehow, in our selfishness, it means the shooting of poor, brave, heroic Edith Cavell, but there was Baucq, the architect, who leaves a wife and two children. And on the placard there is a long and tragic list; five sentenced to death, four others to fifteen years hard labor, one to ten years, and seventeen more who were sentenced for shorter terms. The whole town is stupefied, struck with horror. "It is not a judicial execution," said the Judge of the Highest Court of Belgium this morning, as they stood reading the grim placard. "It is a murder." Sad groups stood under the trees in the boulevards amid the falling leaves, discussing the crime in some such fashion.

In 1916 Whitlock was offered the ambassadorship to Russia, and was spoken of as a possible Vice-Presidential candidate. But he continued his labors in Belgium until April 3, 1917, when the United States was on the threshold of war with Germany. On this day, Whitlock and his staff entrained for Switzerland. Seemingly all of Brussels was at the railway station to bid him goodbye.

## II

One of the first local acts connected with participation in World War I was the organization of a Champaign County chapter of the Red Cross. On April 9 the *Democrat* clarioned: "Patriotism is at High Pitch." By April 13, young men were enlisting in the local Company D, Third Regiment, Ohio National Guard. The newly formed High School Cadets, 78 strong, began drilling on the campsite of the armies of General Hull and General Harrison in the War of 1812.

The first county registration listed 1,785 men of military age; the county's first quota was 300 men. A local recruiting office was opened. On May 5, "a monster patriotic parade" was held, and France's Marshall Joffre and a French Commission appeared for a few minutes. News that an Ohio Army-training cantonment was to be established prompted Urbana citizens to propose that it be located in this city. But Chillicothe won out.

By late October, 78 Urbana boys were at Camp Sherman. A full-page advertisement commanded: "Answer the Kaiser by Attending the Big Liberty Loan Mass Meeting at the Clifford Theatre!" That winter, coal was rationed, and for a short time "fuelless Mondays" were tried. After November, when the first Champaign County contingent was "over there," war tidings were read or heard with intense interest in the county.

Willis Conway, of the regular Army, was the first Champaign County man to arrive in France, disembarking June 26. By the following May, 36 local men were overseas. On May 20, Hubert Brubaker, wounded, arrived home from the battlefield. Keith Cretors of Saint Paris was the first Champaign County man to give his life in combat, although William Nolan had died earlier of injuries sustained at Camp Sherman.

By July 20, there were several hundred local boys in France and more were leaving for training camps almost daily. Wheels of industry hummed day and night, and few fields lay idle. Wheat commanded a price of $3.00 a bushel, and potatoes $4.40 a bushel. There were lightless nights to conserve light; sugar was rationed and war gardens were tended. The new instrument of warfare, the airplane, from the great Army fields at Dayton, was often seen overhead.

Sabotage and the work of foreign agents were suspected in the large fires at the Murphy Lumber Plant, the Citizens Bank Building, and the Clifford Theater. The finding of ground glass in cakes, cookies, and candies also brought a scare.

By early September, 2,793 county men between the ages of 18 and 45 were registered; and married men soon were to be called to the colors. Newspapers were filled with news of the big American drives at St. Mihiel and St. Quentin. Everyone was urged to do his bit in the Fourth Liberty Loan Drive; the county quota of $691,300 was oversubscribed, $862,000 being raised. At a big loan drive held in Monument Square on October 3, Governor Cox spoke, planes flew overhead, and the Great Lakes Naval Band played

martial airs. Champaign County ranked high in the State in the loan drives, going over the top more than a hundred thousand dollars.

The county experienced its share of the nation-wide epidemic of Spanish influenza at about the time the first casualty lists were published. Local folk then learned that on September 30, North Lewisburg's Chester McCreary had died on the battlefield. Other casualties reported soon after were Arthur Ralston, Herman Allen, Harold Deyo, and Donald J. Cannon, Mechanicsburg; Ivan Schmidt and Howard Zirkle, Concord Township; and Roy Moran, Woodstock.

The great Allied drive in the fall of 1918, in which the Americans formed one of the spearheads, was accomplished only after great losses. But it hastened the war's end, and throughout the fall peace was rumored. On October 12, headlines in the local papers read: "Peace Now in Sight." On October 31, the news was: "Enemy Accepts Armistice Without Reserve."

The official ending of the war on November 11 was flashed over the local Western Union wires at 2 a. m. The local night telephone operators were soon frantically tingling telephone bells in darkened homes all over the town and county. Lights came on in every neighborhood, and hundreds of citizens hurriedly dressed to go to the square. Horns, tin pans, drum corps, factory whistles, and church bells joined in a clamorous medley. The city-hall fire bell was rung so hard its rope broke twice. Celebrants paraded and paraded, their route of march guided by impulse. A cannon made by Urbana Tool and Die workers boomed all day long; and in the evening revelers milled through the streets.

The *Daily Democrat* gave the historic day its proper due. Huge block letters proclaimed: "WAR ENDED!" A double headline read: "Greatest Struggle Humanity Has Ever Known Ceases at 5 o'clock." The remainder of the page exclaimed: "Urbana Celebrates All Day Long and Into the Night; People Go Wild as Authentic News is Received Here; Morning Parade Only a Starter for Day of Rejoicing in County; Did Urbana Go Wild, She Did!"

The boys soon returned from Camp Sherman. Homer Crumrine, who came home in December, was the first to arrive from France. Even after the war's end, some casualties became known for the first time: Roy Moran, of Woodstock, was announced as "killed in action," as was Henry Strawther, from east of Urbana. In all, 35 Champaign men died in battle or of wounds or sickness while in their country's service. Khaki-clad boys continued to arrive.

On April 16, Johnny Fischer, first of the boys in the famed Rainbow Division, reached Urbana. Lieutenant Colonel R. L. Eichelberger remained in Siberia as commander of American forces there.

A Victory Loan Drive, whose quota was $630,000, aided by an exhibition of a tank, brought $750,000. The county also had been an Ohio leader in the sale of war-saving stamps. In August 1919, Henry M. Pearce Post No. 120 of the American Legion was organized. Pearce, a doctor in the medical corps, had died in the line of his duty. Henry Strawther Post No. 203 (colored) was organized the following year.

Belgium freed, Brand Whitlock returned to Brussels to his post, which became an ambassadorship in 1919. A succession of honors was given him. The Belgian Senators and Deputies met in joint session to thank and honor him for his services. King Albert presented him with the Grand Order of the Cordon of the Order of Leopold, highest Belgian decoration; and the Croix Civique was awarded for "courage and devotion." A medallion of the Whitlock profile, struck by Godefroid Devreese, was exhibited; the original now hangs in the Urbana Public Library. Egide Rombeaux executed a bust of Whitlock for the Belgium Senate Chamber. One of Brussels' long avenues was named Boulevard Brand Whitlock, and the American was made an honorary citizen of Brussels, Liege, Ghent, and Antwerp. Brilliant receptions and dinners were held in his honor.

At this moment of triumph, publication of Whitlock's book, *Belgium, A Personal Narrative* (written at the Belgian capital in exile, Le Havre, France) brought him his foremost literary acclaim. Allan Nevins writes: "Whitlock made his *Belgium* a tremendously eloquent indictment of military tyranny; a scathing study of autocracy as it stood seemingly triumphant over democracy and freedom, but in reality baffled and defeated by them; a book that rang out like a trumpet-call against oppression and force."

At Urbana an old lady thrilled to every new honor conferred upon her famous son. The last time Mallie Whitlock had seen him was in 1915 at New York, when, after the tragic Edith Cavell affair, Whitlock had been ordered home to report and confer with President Wilson.

On August 2, 1919, Urbana papers announced that Ambassador Whitlock would visit the United States with King Albert and Queen Elizabeth. But Whitlock had preceded the king and queen, arriving in New York late in August. On his arrival, the New York *Morning Telegram* observed editorially:

> . . . If the Democrat leaders are wise, they will persuade Mr. Whitlock to remain in this country until next year. Whitlock is a man for whom it would not be necessary to offer an apology if he should be nominated for the presidency. He is identified with no faction, and has the confidence and respect of all his countrymen. His mistakes have been negligible, his successes undisputed. It would be hard for the Republicans to find in their ranks a candidate with so much to commend him, and as little to explain away. . . .

The Urbana Chamber of Commerce wired Whitlock at New York on October 9: "The People of your City have arranged an informal homecoming for you. Kindly wire whether you approve and when you will arrive. R. C. McDonald, president, Chamber of Commerce."

Whitlock replied from Cheyenne, Wyoming: "I thank you and all my kind friends in Urbana for the great honor they do me in proposing to welcome me to the dear old town. Nothing could give me more pride and joy. I am, however, accompanying the King and Queen of Belgians on their tour of the country and the itinerary is not as yet definitely arranged. I cannot fix a date for visiting Urbana. As soon as the extent of Their Majesties' journey is determined, I shall telegraph you more definite information. My cordial salutations to all."

But although Urbana awaited the return of its famous son, traveling the country with the King and Queen of Belgians, the royal party's Ohio itinerary, which included Cincinnati, Toledo, and Cleveland, did not permit Whitlock to visit Urbana. At Cleveland, a Doctor of Literature degree was conferred on him by Western Reserve University, as a "maker and recorder of history." It was not until almost a decade later that Whitlock, his visit clouded by tragedy, returned to Macochee.

## III

The prosperous times augured well for industrial enterprise; so the Urbana Chamber of Commerce began a drive for new plants in 1920. It succeeded in attracting a branch plant of Piqua's Atlas Underwear Company in 1920, and later Cleveland's Printz-Biderman Company, which took over the old Mohrlite Plant. News that a tractor company was to locate here caused an excited ripple in 1922, but the plant never materialized. Additions were made, however, to the works of the Illinois Car Company.

The short depression of 1921-22 left its mark. Receivers were appointed for the Mohrlite, McCoy Canning, and Urbana Furniture companies and Mechanicsburg's celebrated Wing Seed Company. These concerns, however, soon reestablished themselves by reorganizing. By December 1921, when the Urbana Tool & Die Company received a large order and Atlas resumed production, the local depression was passing.

Great personalities of the American scene appeared. On September 4, 1919, President Wilson tarried for 10 minutes before a large crowd at the station. In 1920, when both Presidential candidates were near-by Ohioans, large local delegations attended the notification ceremonies at Marion and Dayton. Both Governor Cox and Senator Harding made campaign speeches in Urbana. Harding carried the county—7,285 to 4,973.

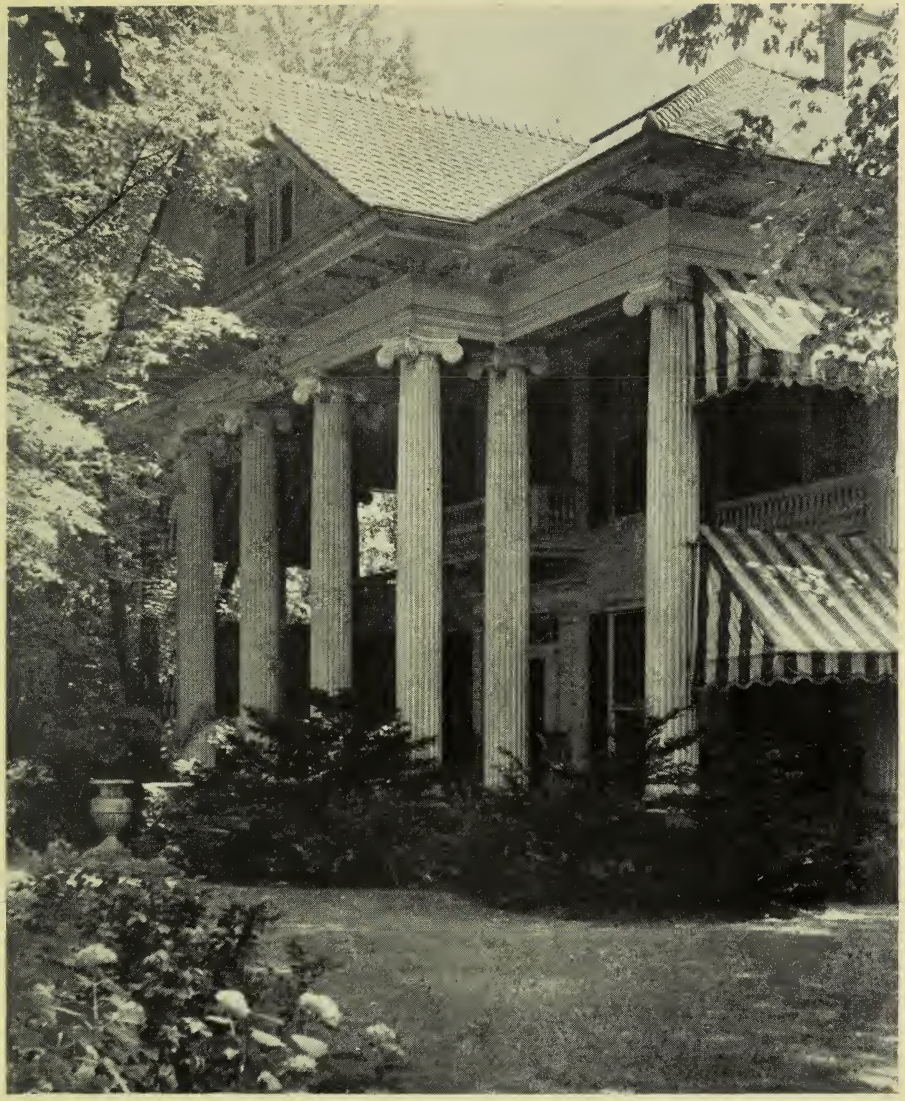
In 1918 the Murphy Lumber Company had a $250,000 conflagration; $150,000 damage was caused to the W. H. Marvin Company; and the United Paperboard plant suffered a $100,000 blaze. In 1919, both South Ward School and Urbana University's old Barclay Hall were destroyed by fire. Another institution partially consumed by fire was the Clifford Theater.

But partly to offset this destruction, new structures appeared. On Main Street were the Masonic Temple (1916) and Champaign County National Bank Building (1920), and the new Gaumer Publishing Company Building (1917) housed the evening *Democrat* and the morning *Citizen.* The latter publication had been acquired through acquisition of the controlling interest of the Urbana News Company by F. C. Gaumer.

Completion of a mausoleum at Mechanicsburg in 1920 was followed by the building of one in Grand View Cemetery after trustees had refused a site in Oak Dale. In 1920, a $140,000 bond issue for erection of South District School passed 734 to 223.

Post-war prosperity made it possible for almost everyone to have a car. In 1918, there were 2,347 automobiles in the county, and in 1919, 2,878. Good-road meetings were held in almost every community. In 1919 it was suggested that a brick road be built to cross the county through Saint Paris, Urbana, and Mechanicsburg to connect with the National Road. Bids for an improved road to Springfield were let in the following year.

Good roads and the improved gasoline motor brought the public motor bus. In 1917, Sharpes Street Car Service began a short-lived jitney-bus service in Urbana. The Urbana-Mechanicsburg bus line, begun in this period, was one of the pioneer lines in the State.



KISER HOUSE PORTICO, SAINT PARIS

URBANA TOOL AND DIE COMPANY PLANT, URBANA

STEINBERGER MILL, NEAR URBANA

COVERED BRIDGE THAT FORMERLY SPANNED MAD RIVER

URBANA JUNIOR COLLEGE, URBANA

# OPENING

—OF—

# Bennett's Opera House.

*You are respectfully invited to attend the Grand Opening of the New Opera House,*

## Thanksgiving Evening, Nov. 24th.

*No pains or expense have been spared to make this*

## THE EVENT OF THE SEASON

*The Announcement that*

## Miss Anna Louise Cary,

*with her Famous Company, will open the House is a sufficient guaranty of the excellence of the Entertainment.*

Reserved Seats at Bennett's Jewelry Store, Saturday, Nov 19th, at 9 o'clock a. m. **Price, $1.00.**

**P. R. BENNETT, Jr.**

E. P. BENNETT, PRINTER.

OPERA HOUSE OPENING PROGRAM, 1882

But it was not until 1922, when the Red Star line began operating its Springfield - Bellefontaine lines through Urbana, that the new transportation excited interest and hostility, for the majority of the council and townspeople supported the interurban.

Community life was strongly integrated by organizations. Almost every principal American fraternal group had representation in the county. Other lodges besides the Masons that were active in Urbana included Eagles, Odd Fellows, Maccabees, Mechanics, Moose, Pythian, Red Men, and Woodmen. Mechanicsburg and Saint Paris had practically the same fraternal roster, and lodge nights were also prominent features of community life at North Lewisburg, Woodstock, and Christiansburg.

The Urbana Chamber of Commerce was organized in 1919, and in the same year Westville farmers formed a co-operative elevator company. The two-year-old Champaign County Farm Bureau had 1,150 members in 1920. Almost every community had regular Farmers' Institute Meetings. The Champaign County Automobile Club was organized in 1920, and in the following year the Urbana Country Club and Kiwanis Club were formed.

Throughout the war period Urbana had relieved its war nerves in a number of ways. Typical theater fare in January 1915 included legitimate drama at the Orpheum, motion pictures at the Ideal, musical comedy at the Lyric, and "nickelodeon features" at the Wonderland.

The Lyric and Ideal presented motion pictures exclusively. The Clifford was still "the opera house," and alternated stage and screen attractions. Billy Clifford's *Linger Longer Lucy* musical comedy company played the Clifford in 1917; its theme song was Clifford's own composition. Other bills that year included *My Home Town Girl* and the comic opera, *Gypsy Love.* The Clifford also presented such pictures as *Less Than Dust* with Mary Pickford; two years later D. W. Griffith's *Heart of the World* created more than ordinary stir because of the local origin of the co-starring Gish sisters. Typical stage offerings now were Jean Kirkland's *Krazy Kats* and Hoyt's *Sweet Daddy* vaudeville company. *The Torch,* a pageant of Urbana history written by Mrs. John H. James, was presented on the university campus, June 20-21, 1922. The cast of 1,100 was entirely recruited from townspeople. The pageant drew an audience of more than 6,000 for its two performances and cleared $995 for the Community Club.

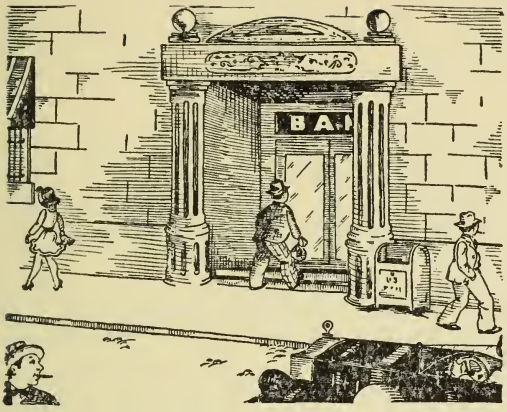
By 1920 Urbana University was in desperate financial straits. T. Coleman Du Pont, attending the Harding notification ceremony

at Marion, was invited by the Chamber of Commerce to visit Urbana, but he was unable to come. A drive for $100,000 prompted him to offer a like sum if the amount was raised. The terms of Du Pont's offer were met, but the school's financial position continued to be insecure.

That year a reunion of former Urbana residents living in New York drew more than a hundred people for a dinner in the Commodore Hotel ballroom. A picture of the cavalryman on Monument Square was printed on the menu.

On December 27, 1920, when Brand Whitlock's work ended at the American Embassy in Brussels, King Leopold called for a farewell visit of two hours.

Although there was talk of Brand Whitlock returning to Ohio to run for the governorship, he had little ambition in this direction. His neglected literary career and the success of *Belgium: A Personal Narrative,* made him turn once again to writing. He wanted to finish *J. Hardin & Son,* the locale of which is a town named Macochee, said to be Urbana.




# PROSPEROUS YEARS

Champaign County shared in the great prosperity of the 1920's. Even in this decade, however, its population continued to decline. However, while the county population as a whole decreased from 25,071 to 24,103, Urbana, industrial center in the rural county, increased its population from 7,621 in 1920 to 7,742 in 1930.

The slightly depressed economic situation of 1921 improved by 1923. The Urbana Garment Company resumed operations, and several concerns previously in receivership were restored to solvency. A Columbus shoe manufacturer announced the opening of a branch factory here, and the county was declared the twelfth largest livestock producer in Ohio. In 1924 the Big Four Railroad began a $1,000,000 construction program to eliminate Urbana grade and road crossings, in addition to double-tracking its local division.

Wall Street and scores of minor Wall Streets throughout the country poured a vast stream of investment money into the expansion of industry. In a slogan contest the Kiwanis Club selected the slogan: "Urbana: Your Opportunity." The Johnson Company added a $30,000 building to its plant, and in 1925 the local Howard Paper Company acquired two Franklin, Ohio, mills.

The local press heralded a "building boom." An increased volume of business brought the Urbana post office first-class rating, and improved the prospect of a new building. Congressman Charles Brand had persistently petitioned for a new structure, but until 1930 the idea made little headway in Washington.

The site selected, opposite City Hall, was occupied by two old landmarks, the Grace Methodist Church and the Urbana Library building. Previously a merger of the Grace Methodist with the First

Methodist Church (1924) had caused abandonment of the church structure, and the old Mohrlite factory building at Walnut and Market Streets had been purchased to provide the site of a new library structure.

Still another institution suffered change. On December 13, 1930, a fire razed the old high school structure known as the "castle on the hill." Its immediate rebuilding at a cost of $85,000 was proposed to relieve the unemployment that followed the financial crash of 1929.

In 1923 Urbana University adjusted its main purpose to that of a sound educational program in the freshman and sophomore years of college work. Three years later it began operating as Urbana Junior College. In 1927, a $100,000 bequest from James G. Wentz, New York, '77, swelled its endowment. In 1930, T. Coleman Du Pont, '79, one of the Nation's financial giants, left a $100,000 bequest; in all, his benefactions had amounted to $300,000.

The good-roads campaign continued, and Champaign County acquired a State-wide reputation for its lavish use of gravel to take its "roads out of the mud." State Senator Charles Brand (elected to Congress in 1923) long had been recognized as a foremost authority on the gravel road; he stated that gravel was suitable where traffic was less than 600 machines per day. Proponents of the gravel road had called attention to its low average cost of $4,000 per mile; by 1924 its bad feature of excessive dust was being remedied by a binder of hot asphalt. In that year there were in the county 3,750 automobiles, representing 80 makes. When the Model A Ford came out (1927), the *Democrat* featured a picture of the new design on its front page.

During the twenties, campaigns against careless driving were introduced, and in 1925 the State Highway Department began placing white wooden crosses on the sites of fatal accidents. In 1927 Urbana city officials purchased five traffic lights for its busiest street corners.

Urbana's famous Willow Drive, leading to Oak Dale Cemetery, fell before the woodman's axe in 1923. The willow trees had been planted long ago by Judge William Patrick. They had aged and deteriorated so that travel under them was endangered by falling limbs, and the council ordered their removal. Their usefulness, however, was not ended; legs for disabled World War veterans were fashioned from their wood. The Kiwanis Club planted elm and poplar trees to take their place.

The interurban was also on the wane. Despite efforts of Troy and Christiansburg citizens to keep the line going, the Springfield, Troy & Piqua Traction line, which crossed the southwest corner of the county, was abandoned in 1923. The remaining traction line, the I. C. & E., also had its troubles, chiefly because of the competing Red Star bus line. The Urbana city council, whose loyalities lay with the traction company, threatened a tax of $25 to $100 on every bus operated through the city. The bus line frequently ran afoul of the law for speeding and parking infractions, and its "unethical horn blowing" to attract passengers from the interurban station was flayed in the local press. Finally the traction company started its own bus line.

An occasional trouping company and the community little-theater group were all that was left of the flesh-and-blood drama. In 1925 one of the offerings of the declining stage (at the Clifford) was the half-century-old favorite, *Uncle Tom's Cabin.* Its show bill urged the local folk to see "The Thrilling Steamboat Race; The Frozen Ohio River by Moonlight; The Great Auction; The Famous Louisiana Levee; the Cutest Little Eva; The Best Old Uncle Tom; The Funniest Topsy and Wickedest Marks." The next year, the *Smiling Eyes Musical Extravaganza* came to town. But stage performances became increasingly rare. In 1925 an Artists Course Program offered a season of musical and lecture performances. Annual Chautauqua, too, was a regular part of the new entertainment pattern, the Chautauqua tent becoming more familiar than even the circus tent. Billy Sunday, the great evangelist, appeared on a Chautauqua program at Mechanicsburg in 1930.

When the franchise of the Ohio Edison Company expired in 1928, the council objected to granting a new franchise at the old rate. The question of building a municipal power plant entered the controversy, as did the franchise application of a Dayton utility concern. The Ohio Edison Company used full-page ads to refute the municipal-plant idea, while John H. James wrote a masterly "letter to the editor" in its favor. The council chamber was the scene of many stormy sessions during the year-long controversy. Finally, after granting a rate reduction, the Edison power company was given a 10-year franchise. The following year North Lewisburg installed a municipal electric-power plant.

During the twenties bootlegging was so widespread and enforcement of the Eighteenth Amendment so lax that prohibition began to be looked on as more of a menace than the original saloon. In 1926 a nation-wide poll by the *Literary Digest* showed that in

Champaign County 454 people favored retention, 327 modification, and 65 outright repeal. Urbana was one of the few Ohio cities to vote dry.

In 1928 the state I. O. O. F. convention was held in Urbana. The Community Players, one of Ohio's first little-theater groups, took over the remodeled Market Square Theatre in City Hall in 1924. The guiding spirit was Dr. T. T. Brand, and the group had almost 1,000 members. In 1925, the Urbana Parent-Teachers Association was organized. The Retail Merchants Association, formed in 1926, supplanted the old Chamber of Commerce. Three years later the Urbana Lions Club received its charter; the local chapter leads all others in the number of its "key members."

At Mechanicsburg, always a "little big town," a Chamber of Commerce was organized in 1923; a few years later a municipal light plant was proposed; and in 1930 a publicly owned water works was established. But for all these big-town aspects, county-seat papers persisted in referring to Mechanicsburg as the "burg," much to the resentment of its citizenry.

The Ku Klux Klan made its local appearance in 1923. Fiery crosses, nocturnal emblems of the Klan, were burned on North Main, Laurel Oak, Fyffe, and Home Streets; in the Negro district, Home Crest; and on the public square. The Klan's conclaves, held in Urbana, on a farm southeast of Mutual, at Mechanicsburg, and at Mingo, were attended by 250 to 800 white-sheeted members. On one occasion, the Klan was refused a permit to assemble in the Urbana city hall. During a scheduled meeting on the Square, violence threatened when Klansmen gathered on the east side of the Square and anti-Klansmen on the west side. Scoring the Klansmen from the pulpit, Father Murphy called them "Krazy Kreeping Kats." By the end of the decade the Klan's influence had almost disappeared.

Two local men of more than ordinary note died in this period. Mechanicsburg's W. O. Wing, brother of the famous "Alfalfa Joe" and one of the founders of the Wing Seed Company, died in 1923, leaving only Charles of the original trio of Wing brothers. In 1930, Urbana's Billy "Single" Clifford, aged 61, took his last curtain call.

In these years, Urbana acquired a new celebrity, Dr. H. M. Parshall, one of the leading reinsmen of American horse racing. Parshall's career had started at 18, when as a freshman at Indiana University he had taken $500 that his father had advanced for college expenses and bought a horse. Started in six races, the horse and its youthful driver won three races and $1,500. Parshall finished his education at the Indiana Veterinary College and established his

racing stable at the Urbana fairgrounds; its facilities, including a half-mile track, were well adapted to the training of standardbreds.

In 1929 Parshall won 85 races and $50,000, and was third-largest money winner among harness race drivers of the country. The next year he won 76 races and thus achieved a world's record for total victories. In the five-year period from 1924 to 1929 he drove four Governor's Cup winners at the Ohio State Fair and three at the Kentucky Fair. Urbana's noted sportsman later entered the famed Hambletonian Stake, world's richest purse for trotters, and this, too, he won.

There were a number of catastrophes in the county's life. North Lewisburg experienced a $65,000 fire in 1923 and a $3,500 bank holdup two years later. The collapse of the Dollings Company (1923), Columbus security firm, found Champaign Countians holding from $250,000 to $500,000 of worthless securities. In 1924, when promotors leased 1,365 acres in Johnson Township, there was considerable oil speculation. A wife-slayer became the first person in the county to be sentenced to the electric chair, in 1924, and a fire at the United Paperboard plant caused a $30,000 loss. Famous Blue Bird Inn, about six miles west of Urbana, said to be 125 years old, burned in 1927, and the greatest flood since 1913 occurred in 1929.

Such calamities were partly offset by a number of bright events in local history. In 1925 George Koehle's Cigar Store Indian, Laughing Waters, won high honors in a wooden-Indian contest held by a Cleveland newspaper. At the same time, the poor timekeeping of the 72-year-old "town clock" brought such adverse comment that the county finally had it cleaned. In 1926 North Lewisburg celebrated its centennial with much gaiety. An athletic peak was reached in Urbana in 1928, when the undefeated high-school football team won 10 consecutive games, in one of which it beat Mechanicsburg by a score of 117 to 0. In 1930 Saint Paris won the 1930 State Class B High School baseball championship.

At this time Brand Whitlock lived in an English hotel at Cannes on the French Riviera. The climate was good for his failing health, he felt that he could do better literary work away from America, and leisurely living was cheaper in France. But Whitlock read American history and biography constantly. After publication of his two-volume *Lafayette* (1929), considered one of the best biographies of the period, he began a biography of Thomas Jefferson. Since *J. Hardin & Son,* he also had written the novels, *Uprooted, Transplanted,* and *Big Matt* (1926-8). But compared

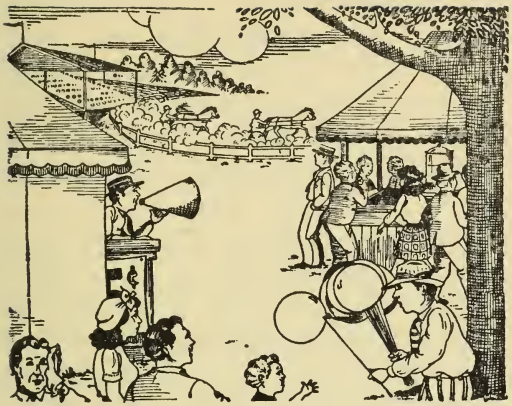
to the non-fiction *Belgium* and *Lafayette,* and earlier novels, *The 13th District* and *Turn of the Balance,* these, for all their literary finish, lacked substance and power. Seemingly, his experience during the war had made description of any but real events barren and trivial.

He had not been forgotten in the United States. In 1924 the *Christian Science Monitor* suggested him as a Presidential nominee. Its editorial, reprinted locally under the caption, "Urbana May Have Local Son for A President," in part, read: ". . . Brand Whitlock, four times mayor of Toledo . . . could have gone on being elected if he desired. He is a liberal, comes from Ohio, a good strategical point, has had newspaper experience, is a lawyer, although his legal activities are overshadowed by his reputation as a writer. He made an admirable record in Belgium where he represented the United States during a crucial period and understands world as well as national politics . . ." In 1929, the *Nation,* New York, placed Whitlock in its annual list of American benefactors.

In December 1928, when his mother, Mallie Whitlock, was gravely ill at her home in Urbana, Brand Whitlock returned to the United States. His visit was noted by both local and national press.

Whitlock once had written that, when his books were done, "I hope to go back to Ohio and spend the rest of my days there. There is peace amid its hills, where I was born, that appeals to me, and I often think of the woods when the leaves are changing and the corn is in the shocks." The 1928 visit to Urbana, when he buried his mother in Oak Dale, was his last to Ohio.

There were signs of an approaching economic storm. In 1928 the local garment company had removed to its main Cleveland plant to save "shipping expense." The Urbana Furniture Company went into a receivership (1929), as did the older White-Valentine Broom Company. The increasing stringency of economic conditions was behind the merger of the Champaign National Bank with the National Bank of Urbana. The coming of Warren G. Grimes and his small Art Metal & Shades plant to Urbana from Detroit, "because of a smaller city's lower operating costs," for all its later importance did little to lighten the sombreness of the local economic picture.



# CLOUDS AND FAIR WEATHER

The depression was the major preoccupation of the next decade in Champaign County. In 1930 the paperboard mill shut down for a three-year period, and two years later the company was placed in receivership. In 1931 an old institution, the Mammoth Store, closed its doors. The local machine-tool industry worked at only a fraction of capacity. Unemployment increased, and in 1934 the Urbana post office dropped to a second-class rating. The farm situation was distressing, with produce prices reaching new lows and mortgage foreclosures a commonplace.

There were many schemes to restore business to normalcy. In 1931 the *Daily Democrat* circulated "prosperity checks," and heralded the April 1 visit of Professor Oswald Butts of the Carnegie Foundation, author of a plan to end unemployment. Briefly, Professor Butts' plan was to raise $500,000, buy brick, build a wall around the city, then tear the wall down. The unemployed would be paid one cent a brick for erecting the wall, and a half-cent a brick for tearing it down. The professor announced his unique plan to end unemployment and "keep money in the city" at a mass meeting held in City Hall. The whole business, the newspaper finally related, was an April Fool's Day joke.

As the depression wore on, such humor became less appreciated. President Hoover's predictions, as contained in a June 16, 1931, headline, "New Era of Prosperity Forecast by President," also lost their force. Nor did the October 6, 1931 headline, "Hoover Says Apprehension Unjustified," raise the spirits of the local business men and the unemployed. By the beginning of the new year the local papers were reduced to six-page editions.

The depression turned the political tables. Hitherto almost exclusively Republican, Champaign County gave Roosevelt 6,393 votes, Hoover 6,200, in November 1932. After the Bank Holiday that followed Roosevelt's inauguration, all the county banks were able to reopen, except the Woodstock Bank, shortly declared insolvent. Two Urbana building and loan associations closed, but one reopened.

However, there were rifts in the clouds. Warren Grimes, whose art company had moved here from Detroit in 1930, was perfecting the airplane lamp that was to be the basis of a new local industry, and the Desmond-Stephan Company added a new product, a machinist's vise, which was substantially to increase its volume of business. In 1932 the Howard Paper Company had bought the Illinois Envelope Company and located its operations in Dayton, thereby adding another unit to the Howard mills, whose headquarters were in Urbana.

Despite these indications of some business success, unemployment rose to an alarming figure, and relief facilities were overtaxed, with local government unable to cope with the prolonged hard times.

When the NRA (National Industrial Recovery Administration) was inaugurated in Champaign County, 98 percent of the business population signed the pledge, and the Blue Eagle emblem was seen everywhere. Other governmental agencies more directly concerned with re-employment through made-work projects came into existence—CWA (Civil Works Administration), FERA (Federal Emergency Relief Administration), WPA (Works Progress Administration, later the Work Projects Administration), PWA (Public Works Administration), and NYA (National Youth Administration). The AAA (Agricultural Adjustment Administration), with its farm subsidies and crop programs, enlisted the help of the local farmer, and the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) planned to establish camps at Lake Kiser and Saint Paris. Other Federal agencies set up to cope with adversity were RFC (Reconstruction Finance Corporation), HOLC (Home Owners Loan Corporation), and FHA (Federal Housing Administration).

The first local work program dealt mainly with road improvements. By 1934, when CWA was the chief work agency, 450 county men were employed, with construction and improvement of buildings, sewage systems, streets, and roads the principal projects undertaken. FERA, soon succeeded by WPA, provided projects for women and professional workers as well as for construction labor-

ers. Typical work accomplished with Government help were PWA's $133,380 sewage-plant project and $60,000 renovation of the city hall in Urbana and WPA's sewage system project at Mechanicsburg. In the two-year period of 1936-38 a total of 69 WPA projects costing $337,442 were completed, with the Federal Government contributing $237,057.

The Government's work program included construction of Kiser Lake in Mosquito Creek Valley. This 350-acre expanse of water northwest of Urbana was begun in 1936 and completed by WPA in 1940. The project had been made possible by Mrs. Thyrza Furrow Kiser, New York, who donated the land to the State. The county's noted Cedar Swamp area, too, had been the subject of public interest. In 1938 the State appropriated $10,000 for its purchase, and plans were made for its conversion into an "inviolate sanctuary" of wildlife.

Perhaps the most spectacular accomplishment of the Government in the county was that of REA (Rural Electrification Administration), which in 1936 brought electricity to local farm homes. The local operating unit of the program, Pioneer Rural Electric Co-operative, Inc., achieved its ends only after a battle for rights-of-way easements and a struggle for rural business developed by private utility concerns. The courts, however, established the legal rights of the local co-operative, which soon had 440 miles of electric lines, serving 1,400 homes. The Champaign County rural electrification program is said to have been the first in the country to begin operations. The co-operative acted only as a distributing system, buying its power from the Piqua municipal plant and private concerns.

The failure of enforcement agencies to stop widespread "bootlegging," together with crime and corruption caused by bootleg barons, was generally considered the major reason for repeal. The first local beer permit was issued to the Eagles' Lodge on April 6, 1933. A State liquor store was opened in the old post-office room in the Clifford Theater Building in the following year.

The depression was still part of the background of the 1936 Presidential election in which the Republicans regained the county. Of 14,500 people eligible to vote in the county, all but 785 went to the polls. Landon won by a plurality of 382 over Roosevelt, who, however, carried the Nation by a landslide vote.

One of the highlights of the campaigning locally was a Democratic parade in Mechanicsburg led by gayly decorated mules and animated by band music. The main speaker, Frazier Reams, Demo-

cratic campaign manager in Ohio, referred to Alfred Landon, the Republican nominee, as a "decidedly average man." In turn, Republican speakers at other political meetings roundly scored President Roosevelt for "ruinous and dictatorial policies."

Perhaps the hardest hit of all local institutions was the interurban. The depression had aggravated the blow dealt by bus-line competition, until by the middle of the decade it was apparent that the interurban was doomed. Finally, in 1937, after years of receiver's deficits had piled up, the Cincinnati & Lake Erie Railway Company (successor to the I. C. & E.) announced the run of "the last car." This came down Main Street on November 11, at 10:40 p.m. Unlike the day, 44 years before, when crowds had lined the sidewalks to review the first car, laden with excited officials and urchins, the last car carried few passengers and there was no excited fanfare. In 1938 the tracks, poles, and trolleys were removed, and in 1939 the traction depot was razed to make way, appropriately enough, for a filling station; pavement patching and cinder-marked rights-of-way were all that was left of the interurban.

By 1937 it seemed that times were better. Urbana post-office receipts, in excess of $50,000, reached an all-time high. A November unemployment census in the county, however, still showed 418 men unemployed, with 671 only partly employed. There were 165 workers on the WPA, but in February 1938 the number rose to 432. In February 1939, unemployment compensation of the new social-security program was being paid to 90 unemployed workers, and fear of unemployment was somewhat relieved.

Hard times did not check or hinder greatly the educational work in the county. In fact the educational plant was improved through repairs and decorative work in the school buildings done by relief labor. In 1931 Urbana High School placed tenth in the Ohio scholarship contest; in 1933 it was a leader in its district and one of the foremost schools in the State finals. The junior-college idea was well established on the former Urbana University campus, and in 1938 the college was given 50 adjoining acres by Margaret L. James. A $250,000 building program was deferred to a more propitious time.

Urbana's most attractive public building, the Public Library, opened in 1932. This fine structure at the foot of Market Street was made possible by the funds gained from the sale of the old library structure as part of the post-office site. A new front was added to the old Mohrlite Company structure, and in 1936 Mr. and Mrs. Isaac T. Johnson financed remodeling of part of the old

building into a modern auditorium and a relic room for the historical society.

Organizational life in the county was as strong in the thirties as before. Farmers looked to the Farmers' Institutes and the Farm Bureau for advice and help. The Urbana Business and Professional Men's Club had taken over the functions of the former Chamber of Commerce, but in 1937 the group again called itself the Chamber of Commerce. A Champaign County Historical Society was organized in 1934, and, with completion of the library addition, was provided with quarters for monthly meetings and its growing collection of historical items. About the only important group that ceased functioning was the Community Players, whose little-theater programs were suspended in 1931.

Brand Whitlock's life came to a close in this decade. Living quietly in Cannes, Whitlock, while writing his biography of Jefferson, had also found time to produce novels, *The Little Green Shutter* (1931) and *The Stranger on the Island* (1934). In addition to the Jefferson biography, he also had begun study for a biography of Andrew Jackson.

Periodically, in these last years, Whitlock felt nostalgia. On December 18, 1931, in a letter to his friend, Albert Bigelow Paine, he wrote:

> And here is Christmas coming along, and I am afraid it won't be very "merry;" somehow or other it doesn't seem like Christmas anyhow in the sunshine; what one wants at Christmas is the kind of snowstorms we used to have in Ohio, and a clear cold night of mystery and wonder, with sparkling stars and the light showing through the stained glass windows of the church, just as one wished to see it on Christmas cards. I could get quite sentimental about it and longing for it. And sometimes I have visions of going back to Urbana and looking for it. But alas, I know that I should not find it any more there or anywhere, because it is my youth that I should be looking for. . . .

Whitlock made his last public appearance February 17, 1934, at the funeral of his close friend, Albert, King of Belgians. In the same year, on May 24, following two operations, his own end came suddenly, and he was buried in Holy Trinity Cemetery at Cannes. Allan Nevins says: "He lived a gallant, elevated, and at times, an

heroic life, that will not be forgotten as long as men remember the history of the progressive and humanitarian movement in the United States."

In 1937, Mrs. Brand Whitlock donated to the Urbana Public Library the original Devreese medallion that the Belgians had struck off in Whitlock's honor. It had been made secretly before the war was over. Whitlock's comment about it was as follows:

> Some say the likeness makes me look older, but that is only because I am older. I seem to have crowded a good many years into these four, and they have left me with whitened hair and the aged feeling, which I hope will drop off,—that is, I hope the aged feeling will drop off, and not the hair—as soon as we can give the Germans the licking they deserve for their deviltry.

After his death, Ohioans conferred several honors upon Whitlock. In 1936 a large slum-eradication and housing project in Toledo was named the Brand Whitlock Homes and in 1939 his name was enrolled in the Ohio Journalism Hall of Fame at Ohio State University.

In 1939 Charles Ira McDargh, 95, last local Union veteran of the Civil War, died. McDargh, veteran of 22 battles, for several generations had been the foremost reminder of the Civil War epoch. His collection of historical items, the largest in the county, was open to the public; and for decades the McDargh home had been the unofficial museum of the city. After McDargh's death, the relics were sold at auction.

In the previous year the old veteran had been an honored witness of the local phase of the Northwest Territory Sesquicentennial Celebration. The "pioneers" who had retraced the path of the first Territorial settlers from Ipswich, Massachusetts, to Marietta, Ohio, put in their local appearance on May 13. Their oxen and covered wagons attracted a huge crowd.

Dr. Hugh M. Parshall, sportsman, continued to bring the community into the national sport limelight. A Cleveland newspaper contained a typical commentary:

> Ohio's own daredevil of the Big Line, dashing Doc Parshall from down in little Urbana, turned loose a trotting fury called Ankobarr out at sun scorched North Randall yesterday—turned him loose with such a brilliant

> display of reinsmanship that Ankobarr scored a smashing triumph in the historic $3,000 tavern "steak." Under keen urging, by the fiery Parshall, he came on determinedly to nip Great Atlantic by something less than a nose. . . . . 2:02 4-5, the fastest time ever recorded in the fixture first raced back in 1910.

In 1934 Parshall reached the heights of harness racing, winning the Hambletonian Stake, premier American trotting purse, with Lord Jim, who had been brought to the fairgrounds two years before as a wild colt. A public banquet, attended by many sportsmen and sports writers, was held in Parshall's honor. Between 1927 and 1933, Parshall had won 401 races, leading the country in five of the six years.

In 1937, Parshall's decision to remove his training stable to Pinehurst, North Carolina, brought disappointment to the community, which had grown used to basking in the reflected glory of his dirt-track victories. But in 1939 Parshall returned, and the training of champions was resumed in the county.

In that year Parshall again drove a Hambletonian Stake champion, winning the $40,000 purse with Peter Astra. It was the second time that conquest of the Hambletonian had been repeated. Parshall was feted at a local banquet and described as "the man who had put Urbana on the map." Banquet guests included 85 visitors from 20 States. During that year Parshall won 57 races, 150 heats, and $84,000.

Another celebrity from Champaign County, Brigadier General Robert L. Eichelberger, was appointed commander of the United States Military Academy at West Point.

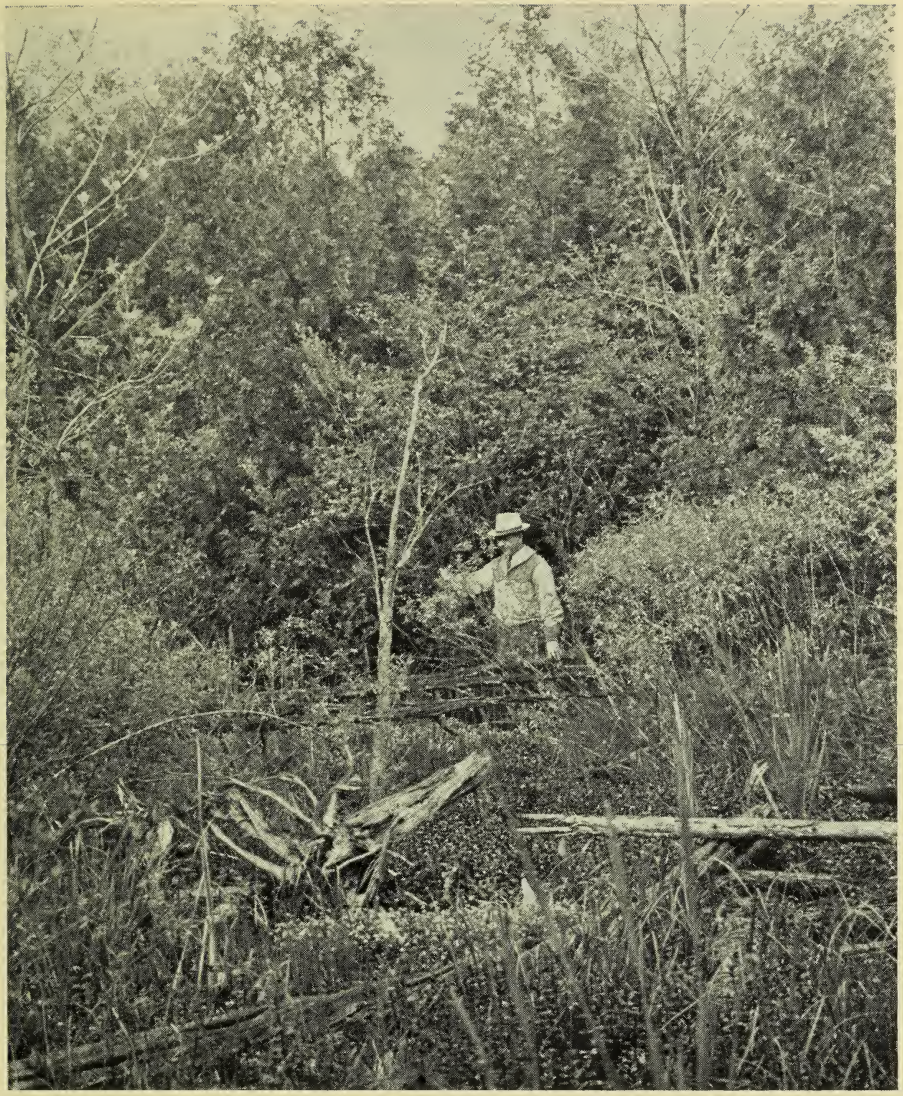
In 1938, when John W. Bricker was elected Governor of Ohio, he carried Champaign County with 7,052 votes as against 4,415 for Charles Sawyer. Urbana had a personal interest in the triumph, for the new Governor's wife was a former local girl (Harriet Day) and a frequent visitor. The cabinet of the new governor included John T. Brown, of Mechanicsburg, as director of agriculture. Previous State cabinet members in the decade had included T. A. Edmondson as director of industrial relations and Westville's Ray Allison as director of finance. In the 1938 election Mad River Township voted itself dry, and Saint Paris rejected the sale of liquor by the glass, 624 to 126.

The wide dispersal of former Urbana and Champaign County natives was indicated by a gathering in 1932 of 110 former resi-

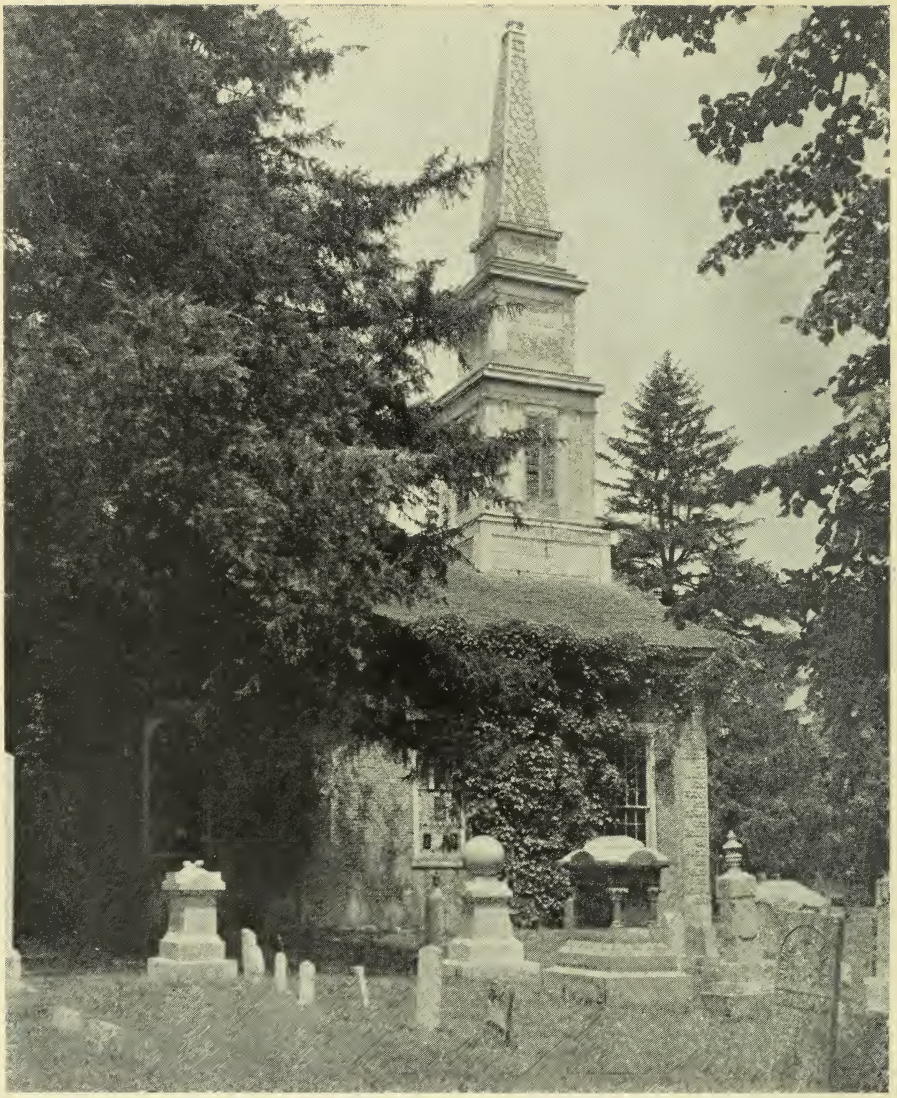
dents at a picnic in Hollywood, California. A picture of Old Willow Drive was shown to the guests, just as an imprint of the cavalryman on the Square had been the symbol of a meeting of former residents in the previous decade at New York. The city also received notice in 1937, when Station WHIO, Dayton, presented a "Salute to Urbana" broadcast from the stage of the Clifford Theater.

Saint Paris held its centennial in 1931 and Mechanicsburg in 1934. During the thirties Mechanicsburg gained a waterworks, operated by the Mechanicsburg Water Company; in 1936 citizens voted the purchase of the plant for $57,000. Largely through gifts by Mrs. Kiser, the Saint Paris Library was opened in 1936; by 1940 it had 5,325 volumes.

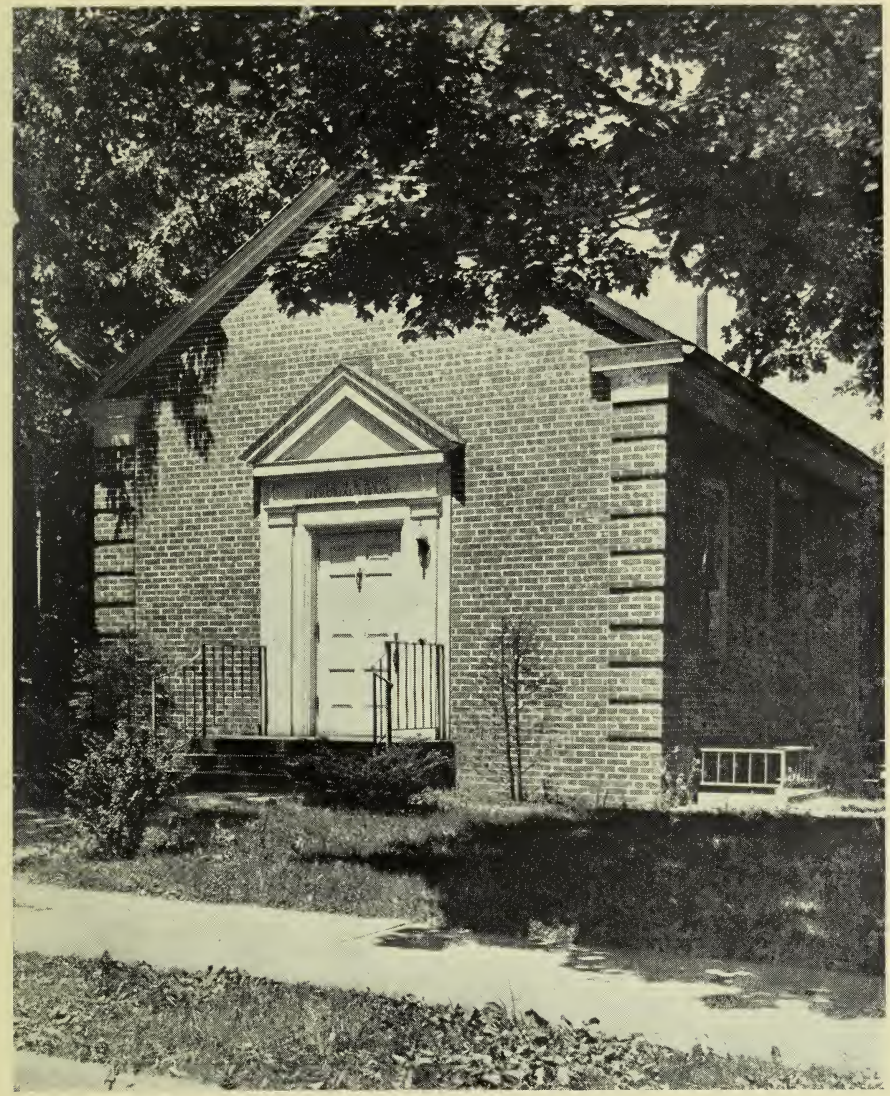
The County Fair remained one of the oldest institutions in the county; the autumn fair days with their prize exhibits brought some relief from industrial and farm troubles. Attendance increased yearly. The 62,000 figure in 1938 was surpassed the next year by 3,000; a record 25,000 one-day attendance nearly caused a riot at the grandstand. In the summer of 1941, the county had one of the biggest fairs in local history, for that year business was on the upturn and it was the hundredth anniversary of the Champaign County Fair.



CEDAR SWAMP —*Edward S. Thomas Photo*



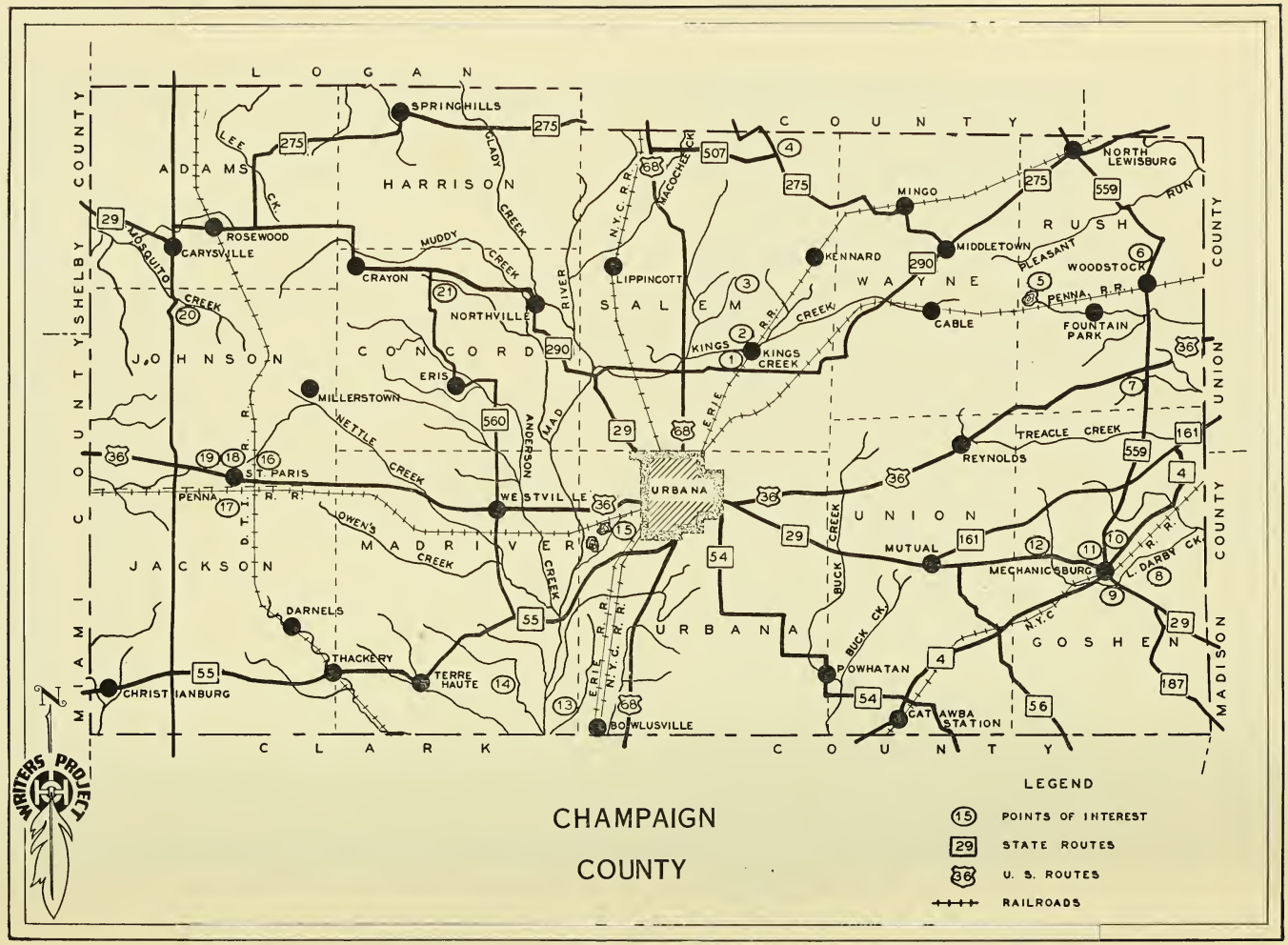
BAPTIST CHURCH AND CEMETERY, KINGS CREEK



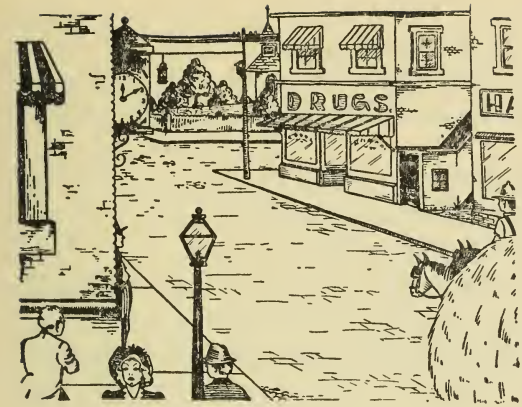
WING MEMORIAL LIBRARY, MECHANICSBURG

ROUND BARN, NEAR URBANA
This architectural oddity stands near Grimes Field, an airport presented to the city of Urbana by Warren Grimes.

# PLACES TO VISIT IN TOWN AND COUNTRY




CHAMPAIGN COUNTY




# TOWNS AND VILLAGES

CABLE (pop. 210, alt. 1,160 ft.) lies in a saucer-shaped depression surrounded by wooded hills and winding roads. The village rests placidly on a country road 11 miles northeast of Urbana and east of State 290. It was platted in 1853 by P. L. Cable. Henry Nincehelser and his young wife were the first to choose the attractive site for their home.

When the railroad (now the Pennsylvania Railroad) came through in 1856, Cable was thought to have a big future. A railroad depot, post office, steam sawmill, warehouse, blacksmith shop, schoolhouse, township hall, two general stores, a hotel, and a Methodist Church were rapidly established. Many laborers boarded here, and the anvil in Nincehelser's blacksmith shop sang a busy song.

Today, Cable's former glory is gone, and farming is the major source of its livelihood. The Wayne Township centralized school, the township hall, and the Methodist Church are its principal community buildings.

CHRISTIANSBURG (pop. 536, alt. 1,116 ft.) rests on a high, rolling plain, drained by Honey Creek, which flows by the town's western limits. Urbana lies 18 miles east on State 55.

Christiansburg was platted in 1817 by Joshua Howell, who named the town for his former home, Christiansburg, Virginia. Most of the early settlers were fellow Virginians. A blacksmith shop, wagon shop, and two taverns soon were busy in Howell's town. Today, the major landmarks are a grain elevator that serves the region, a township hall, and a district school, standing since 1886.

Incorporated Christiansburg is the center of trade for Jackson Township. A bank, several stores, and a first-class restaurant comprise the business establishments. Four churches, together with Odd Fellows and Masonic lodge halls, contribute to the town life.

KINGS CREEK (pop. 247, alt. 1,080 ft.) is four miles northeast of Urbana and a half-mile north of State 290. It was platted in 1810 by the first settler, John Taylor, who came to this section in 1804. The village was first known as Taylorsville, but by 1815, when Simon Kenton took up temporary residence here, the name was changed to Kingston. "Kings Creek" was adopted later to avoid postal confusion; the name was derived from the legend that an Indian chief had once been killed on the creek bank.

Taylor's grist mill—the millrace can still be seen— was the first enterprise; a wagon shop, cooperage, blacksmith shop, and general store came later. The Baptist Church is the third oldest in the Northwest Territory.

Kings Creek is situated in a level farming section, and its major concern is with the soil. A centralized township grade and high school is here, as well as the Salem Township Hall, where local township and grange meetings are held.

MECHANICSBURG (pop. 1,653, alt. 1,055 ft.), situated 10 miles southeast of Urbana on State 29, in the midst of a rich farming section, is a representative Ohio town; its substantial Main Street gives it a "big town" aspect, with the handsome Victorian town hall the principal edifice.

According to legend, a Shawnee maiden, Wawanita, fell in love with an engineer named Culver, who was with General Hull's army during the War of 1812. She called her lover "Mechanic." When this town was founded by John Kain in 1814, his familiarity with the romance of Wawanita inspired him to call his settlement Mechanicsburg.

Land surrounding the new town sold for $1 an acre, and the best town lots for $5. But growth was slow, the population in 1830 reaching only 98.

In the ante bellum years, Mechanicsburg became known as a "black abolitionist hole," and was host to hundreds of fugitive slaves. It was the home of Udney Hyde and Ad White, principal figures in the famous 1855 trial of Mechanicsburg and Urbana citizens for aiding a slave to escape.

For a long time after the first Central Ohio Fair was established here in 1869, the local fair was considered comparable to the Ohio State Fair. A natural ampitheatre was part of the now abandoned fairgrounds.

In the 1880's, Mechanicsburg achieved some note for several manufactures, particularly grain drills, paper, flannel, and stove pipe crimpers. A rivalry with the county seat also sprang up in these years; it was expressed mainly in impromptu horse races and much-heralded baseball games. Urbana newspapers invoked the wrath of Mechanicsburg by referring to it as the "burg."

The chief income of the town derives from its farm area, the land of Goshen Township. Besides a full array of business establishments, there is a patent-medicine concern, a bank, and the daily *Mechanicsburg Telegram,* with a circulation of more than a thousand. The Goshen Township Hall and a centralized township grade and high school are also situated here.

"Alfalfa Joe" Wing, who introduced alfalfa to Ohio, was a Mechanicsburg citizen, and with his brothers was founder of the once-extensive Wing seed concern. Wing, one of the foremost agriculturists of his day, served on national committees and other bodies investigating agricultural problems. He was a prolific writer, and many of his books are classics in the fields of agriculture and stock breeding. Wing Memorial Library, dedicated in 1940, is one of Main Street's principal points of interest.

Near Mechanicsburg's western limits is the farm residence of James R. Hopkins, well-known Ohio artist and head of the Ohio State University's fine-arts department.

State Routes 4 and 29, the Big Four Railroad, and a bus line pass through Mechanicsburg. A deep gravel pit at the edge of town near Lake Run Creek, which has yielded many Indian relics, and near-by woodlands make tramping in the neighborhood a pleasant adventure.

The strong religious tone is maintained by 10 churches, two of which are supported by the town's Negroes. Most of them are descendants of Negroes who came here in the post-Civil War years. Mechanicsburg is incorporated and is governed by a mayor and council.

MINGO (pop. 150, alt. 1,220 ft.) lies in a hilly, wooded section on State 275 about 15 miles northeast of Urbana. The town was platted in 1866 by Ebenezer Williams, who named it Mulberry because of many mulberry trees on the site. The name was

changed because later citizens thought it frivolous; the present name is of Indian derivation.

The Erie Railroad, which began operating the same year the town was platted, brought many settlers. The first building was a small sawmill. The extensive Stevenson flour mill was erected, but soon abandoned. Today Mingo is a trade center for neighboring farms. The Hunter House, still standing, was built before the platting of the town and served as a famous station of the Underground Railroad. Many tourists en route to Ohio Caverns, four miles to the north, pass through Mingo.

MUTUAL (pop. 120, alt. 1,198 ft.), six miles east of Urbana on State 29, was first settled in 1814 by a vociferous farmer and promoter named Lafferty. One day, Lafferty left his farm near Mechanicsburg to move, so he said, to Texas. When next seen he was leaning against the side of a new cabin on the site of Mutual. From that time until the town was platted in 1840, the place was known familiarly as Lafferty's Texas, or merely Texas.

A group of Virginia settlers, recognizing the necessity for co-operation in their new home, named the town Mutual. The community has since become the trading center for near-by farms and a meeting place of the trustees of Union Township. It is an incorporated village, governed by a mayor and council.

NORTH LEWISBURG (pop. 720, alt. 1,095 ft.), 16 miles northeast from Urbana on State 290, is situated in the fertile and prosperous valley of Big Darby Creek. Laid out in 1826 by Gray Gary and incorporated in 1844, the town was named Lewisburg in honor of General Lewis. "North" was later prefixed to the name to avoid confusion with another Ohio Lewisburg. Soon after the Erie Railroad came through, the town knew its most prosperous era, reaching a population of 936 in 1880. A carriage factory and flour and lumber mills were busy in those days.

Its present lively trade is mainly based on farm needs. Among the principal buildings are the town hall, a centralized grade and high school building, and the Masonic Temple. North Lewisburg has a mayor-council government and is incorporated.

The Spain Hotel, a small structure, is maintained for tourists. The Beltz Grist Mill, more than 125 years old, still stands. A large gravel pit northwest of Maple Grove Cemetery has been the source of many recently discovered Indian artifacts.

ROSEWOOD (pop. 200, alt. 1,137 ft.), 17 miles northwest of Urbana on State 54, is an incorporated village in the level section of Adams Township. This former swampland is almost entirely utilized for stock raising. The village, one of the youngest in the county, was platted in 1893 when the Detroit, Toledo and Ironton (the later "Henry Ford Road") was built through the western part of the county.

The busy grain elevator and the weekly livestock sales held at the local stockyard are evidence of Rosewood's close relationship to the near-by farms. There are also the other usual business establishments of a rural center.

The Township House is the monthly meeting place of Adams Township trustees. The modern brick schoolhouse, erected in 1911, was one of the first centralized schools in the State. Rosewood has a mayor-and-council government.

A modern tourist camp is situated a half-mile west of the town on State 69. Accommodations are also available in private homes.

SPRINGHILLS (pop. 121, alt. 1,050 ft.), 19 miles northwest from Urbana on State 275, is in the center of a prosperous farming section. The town site was platted in 1832 by Joseph Woods and named Middleburg. The name was changed to Springhills when the townsfolk discovered, upon applying for a post office, that the name Middleburg had already been applied to a town in Logan County.

Springhills is now shrunk to hamlet proportions, but at one time it held promise of bigger dimensions. Within a year of its founding, two blacksmith shops, three general stores, and a tavern were established; at a distillery on the town's outskirts, a bushel of grain could be exchanged for a gallon of whiskey. By 1861 Springhills had reached its zenith. Among its 25 small industries were two boot and shoe factories, a harness shop, a cigar factory, three cooperage shops, a broom factory, a cabinet-maker's shop, a brick kiln, a tannery, a chair factory, a flour mill, and a wagon factory. There were also two saloons, a school, and three churches. The population was 400. Then the railroad passed it by, and Springhill's localized economy began to decline.

Today, the town business is carried on by a few retail establishments catering to the farm trade. The principal structure is a centralized school building.

SAINT PARIS (pop. 1,308, alt. 1,231 ft.), third largest town of the county, lies 11 miles west of Urbana on U. S. 36, in the

midst of rolling farm country. The town looks substantial, ana neat homes, wayside trees, and attractive church spires give it a gracious quality.

Saint Paris was first settled in 1813 by David Huffman, who platted the village in 1831 and named it New Paris. The name was later changed when application was made for a post office.

Present industries include a flour mill, a lumber and planing mill, two poultry commission houses, and two hatcheries. The town, located on two railroads, is a shipping and marketing point for the farmers of the region, and it is the chief center of life in the western part of the county, somewhat as Mechanicsburg is in the eastern part.

Harmon Park is equipped with a baseball diamond, a tennis court, and a children's playground. A historical museum is maintained in the park building. At the museum, information can be had regarding two ancient remains of the Mound Builders near Saint Paris.

The centralized grade and high school for Johnson and Jackson Townships is the scene of considerable community activity during the school year. The town has seven church structures, and the Town Hall is also a principal gathering place for this incorporated community. A public library; a newspaper, the *Saint Paris News Dispatch,* printed daily except Sunday, with a circulation of 800; and a motion-picture theater give Saint Paris additional means of entertainment and education. A mayor and council guide its public life.

WESTVILLE (pop. 180, alt. 1,021 ft.) is situated in the Mad River Valley four miles west of Urbana on U. S. 36.

The town was surveyed and platted by Archibald Magrew in 1815. Abraham Stephens led a body of settlers here in 1818, and a log schoolhouse was built the same year. Methodists erected the first church in 1826.

Site of the Old Stockade, hurriedly "heisted" in 1807 after an Indian scare, is of particular interest. The eloquence of General Simon Kenton deterred the Indians and the fort was never used.

The town exists chiefly as a farm trading center. The centralized grade and high school of the Mad River School District is situated here.

WOODSTOCK (pop. 293, alt. 1,042 ft.), 14 miles east of Urbana on U. S. 36 and 2 miles north of State 559, is an incorpor-

ated community in the heart of the prosperous farming section of Rush Township.

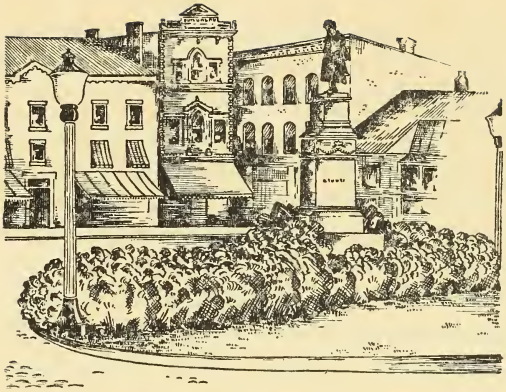
The vicinity was known originally as Four Corners, but the name was changed to Smithville after the Smith brothers platted the site in 1832. Five years later a group of settlers from Woodstock, Vermont, renamed the town after their old home.

Greatest impetus to Woodstock's growth came after the construction of the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1856. The first drain-tile factory in Ohio began operation here four years later. The plant and its kilns have since disappeared, as have other small industries, but an abandoned school building, erected of native brick in 1829, still stands.

Today most of Woodstock's income is derived from agricultural trading and allied pursuits. It has a sizable canning factory, a large livestock sales barn, and numerous retail enterprises. A stock sale at Woodstock often brings receipts of more than $20,000.

Woodstock's civil functions are administered from a town hall by a mayor and council. The Rush Township centralized grade and high school is situated here.

A mile and a half west of Woodstock are the magnetic springs and wells for which the town is chiefly noted. A large sanitarium is near the springs.



# URBANA POINTS OF INTEREST

(*Visitors are generally welcome in the industrial plants; however, it is best to inquire in advance.*)

1. MONUMENT SQUARE, Miami, Scioto, and Main Sts., has been the central point of Urbana life since the day when founder Colonel William Ward's generous town plan included its provision. From its site General William Hull and his forces departed in 1812 on their disastrous march to Detroit. At the southwest corner is a brick building erected in 1811. The CIVIL WAR MONUMENT, showing a dismounted Union cavalryman looking "homeward," was dedicated in 1871. About the Square are venerable business structures with two-, three-, and four-story Victorian facades of painted brick, stone trim, and ornate wooden cornices.

2. CITY HALL, Main and Market Sts., is a massive and ornate red-brick structure that, since 1890, has housed the various departments of the city government. On the second floor was the Market Square Theater of the opera-house period. The building has often been condemned; but sentiment, economy, and repairs have always saved the old landmark.

3. URBANA POST OFFICE, across the street from City Hall, is an attractive, functionally styled building of red brick and stone trim, erected in 1930. It is on the site of old Grace Methodist Church and the former Public Library building. For many years Congressmen tried to secure a structure for the post office, which heretofore was housed in rented quarters.

4. PUBLIC LIBRARY (*open daily 2 - 9 p. m.*), W. Market and Walnut Sts., is a one-story red-brick structure of early Ameri-

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OF
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LEGEND
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POE AVE
HARMON AVE
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EVANS AVE
BLOOMFIELD AVE
LIGHT ST
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CLEVELAND ST
MIAMI ST
VIDBEECH ST
CLAY ST
COLLEGE WAY
MAD RIVER PIKE
RUSSELL ST
LOUDEN ST
ORANGE ST
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LAFAYETTE ST
WASHINGTON ST
WARD ST
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SCIOTO ST
MARKET ST
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can design. It contains 22,000 volumes, replicas of John Q. A. Ward's *Hunter and His Dog* and *Shakespeare,* and the original Godefroid Devreese medallion of Brand Whitlock. An alcove contains part of the works of Brand Whitlock; the collection is being completed. CHAMPAIGN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM (*admission by request to librarian, free*) is contained in a special exhibit room of the library structure. The extensive collection includes numerous relics of the pioneer period, early photographs, manuscripts, and a newspaper file. There are many memorabilia of Simon Kenton, John Quincy Adams Ward, Billy "Single" Clifford, and Brand Whitlock, whose gifts from the Belgian people are clustered in a large case. An auditorium seating 400 people is in the west wing of the building. The historical society and other community groups meet here.

Close by, in landscaped settings, are fine old Colonial-styled mansions that tell of the town's Southern origins.

5. GEORGE McCONNELL HOUSE (JOSEPH P. FYFFE BIRTHPLACE), W. Market St., is a beautiful residence in modified Georgian Colonial style. Many of its architectural details, including the stately portico, have been added in recent years. A side elevation overlooks a small stream; and the house is surrounded by great trees. An attractive serpentine brick wall encloses part of the landscaped grounds. Fyffe (1832-96) was a rear admiral in the United States Navy.

6. ROY MILLNER HOUSE, 221 W. Market St., is a brick structure of the Victorian period. Notable details are its handsome ornamental wrought-ironwork and mansard roof. It was originally the home of Henry Weaver, an early merchant who was reputed to be the wealthiest man in the county.

7. THE JOHN H. JAMES HOUSE, S. High St., is an excellent example of Georgian Colonial design; its servants' quarters and service centers to the rear are reminiscent of the layout of the ante bellum Southern manor. Built in 1836 by John H. James I, the residence is now occupied by John H. James, III. Its library, overflowing two large rooms and accumulated by three generations of the James family, contains probably the best private collection of early Ohio history in existence. When the Northwest Territory Celebration was held in 1938, this library was the source of material that helped round out present-day knowledge of early territorial history.

Within the house are numerous examples of Mrs. James' work as a portrait painter; her canvases and crayon portraits have been exhibited here and abroad. Mrs. James is founder and mentor of the Urbana Movement, the purpose of which is to give free art instruction to local people. An early bust of Lafayette and the original of J. Q. A. Ward's *Hunter and His Dog* are among the sculptures owned by the Jameses. Maps in the historical collection range from one of the early French empire in the New World to a vari-colored map of Ohio printed by William Howells, father of William Dean Howells.

An unusual feature of the house is an oval-shaped stairway that reaches upward for three stories. Even the square-shaped balusters are planed to the curve of the stair's ascent. At the top of the well is an elliptical skylight. On the roof are a wooden balustrade, surrounding the skylight, and four large chimneys with interesting chimney-pots.

8. The C. H. MARVIN HOUSE (WARD HOUSE), 335 College St., a two-story brick residence of modified Georgian Colonial style, was the birthplace of John Quincy Adams Ward (1830-1910) and his painter-brother, Edgar Melville Ward (1839-1915). A long sweep of lawn and great trees are in front of the house.

9. URBANA JUNIOR COLLEGE, College Way, a co-educational school, was established as Urbana University in 1850 by the Church of the New Jerusalem (Swedenborgian). Stately oaks shelter much of the 36-acre campus. In 1923 the school became a junior college.

Among the famous men who attended the school are John Quincy Adams Ward, Brand Whitlock, and members of the Du Pont family. The 11,000-volume college library includes the largest collection of Swedenborgian literature in existence. In WILLIAMS HERBARIUM are several thousand specimens of flora, collected between 1833 and 1871 from the moraine and swamp regions of west-central Ohio.

On the campus is BAILEY HALL, occupied by the college office, chapel, and science museum; like adjacent BARCLAY HALL, which contains the library, it also is used for classes; OAK HALL, men's dormitory, is near by. BROWNE HALL, the girls' dormitory, is situated on College Way, two blocks from the campus. LYCEUM HALL, at the rear of the Swedenborgian Church, houses the dramatic society's Blue Denim little theater.

Reverend Russell Eaton is president of the college. In recent years additional land adjacent to the campus has been acquired to provide for a contemplated expansion of the school plant.

10. MOSGROVE HOUSE, 323 Miami St., built more than a century ago, is early Federal in design, with Ionic columns outlining its handsome portico. It has a high-banked terrace; and the landscaped yard extends to a large expanse of lawn in the rear. A curving stairway in the central hall of the spacious interior ascends gracefully to the third floor. The first member of the Mosgrove family in the United States came during the War of 1812 as a surgeon on a British man-of-war.

11. W. H. MARVIN COMPANY, 600 Miami St., founded in 1915, processes dates, gelatins, cereals, currants, figs, and mincemeat. The seasonal nature of its work has sometimes made this firm the largest local employer.

12. W. B. MARVIN MANUFACTURING COMPANY, N. of Pennsylvania freight depot, Miami St., makes tinware, screens, and ventilators. The company was founded in 1915 by W. B. Marvin, one of several members of a family long associated with local industry.

13. JOHNSON MANUFACTURING COMPANY, 605 Miami St., makes metal stampings, notably railroad tinware and utility containers. The firm was established in 1902.

14. UNITED PAPER BOARD COMPANY, Elm St., founded in 1894, is the present-day representative of one of the oldest local industries; the plant is familiarly known as "the Strawboard." Products are principally folding box board and folding cartons.

15. McCOY CANNED FOOD COMPANY, Gwynne and Russell Sts., in the canning season employs more than a hundred workers. Chief canned products are peas, corn, and tomatoes gathered from near-by farms.

16. HOWARD PAPER COMPANY, W. Church St., is the home of the nationally advertised Howard Bond business papers. Founded in 1910, the concern has since acquired three

paper-products plants at other points, with Urbana remaining the headquarters for the combined operations. In point of regular employment, value of products, and capitalization, this is the largest local concern, employing approximately 250 workers.

17. GRIMES MANUFACTURING COMPANY, 515 N. Russell St., was established in 1930, when Warren Grimes moved his small light-fixture plant here from Detroit. Its specialty is airplane lights, in the manufacture of which it is one of the Nation's leaders. At present the plant is busy with national defense and lend-lease orders.

18. URBANA HIGH SCHOOL, Washington and Wood Sts., stands on a knoll in spacious, wooded grounds. Its main section was built in 1929. The 1940-41 enrollment of the high school was 359 students, 62 of whom graduated. Because of its position in large wooded grounds atop a knoll and because of the turreted lines of its central building, the high school is familiarly known as "the castle on the hill."

19. MASONIC TEMPLE, N. Main St., constructed in 1916 at a cost of $80,000, is the largest fraternal building in the county.

20. CHAMPAIGN COUNTY COURTHOUSE, Main and Court Sts., has served as the seat of government since 1839, although alterations have changed its original lines. The tower and clock were added in 1880 and 1894, respectively, and the ornamental stone facade a few years later. Atop the clock tower is a statue of blindfolded Justice with her scales.

21. East from Monument Square, on broad tree-lined Scioto Street, there are examples of various American architectural styles, though most of the large residences, placed well back from the street in spacious yards, are of the Victorian period.

22. Right on Patrick Avenue is OLD WILLOW DRIVE, planted by Judge William Patrick in 1858 to flank the road to Oak Dale Cemetery. At one time the drive was one of the showplaces of Urbana. However, when the branches of the trees became a menace to traffic, the trees were removed. Elms and poplars have replaced the willows, which were used as material for wooden legs of disabled World War veterans.

23. OAK DALE CEMETERY, end of Patrick Avenue, has been the chief community burial place since 1851. Among its 11,000 graves are several of famous persons. The SIMON KENTON GRAVE is marked by a massive monument with rough-hewn stone on its top; sculptured heads of an Indian and of animals are placed on its four sides. The sculptor was John Q. A. Ward. On the JOHN QUINCY ADAMS WARD GRAVE is a replica of the sculptor's *Indian Hunter*. The remains of Mrs. Ward lie near those of her husband in a triangular plot of ground. Here, also, are the final resting places of Edgar M. Ward; Joseph Vance, Jr., Governor of Ohio (1837-39); and Rear-Admiral Joseph P. Fyffe.

24. URBANA TOOL AND DIE COMPANY, end of Reynolds St., (off S. Main St.), occupies the old woolen mill, an old industrial landmark. Since its founding in 1912, the company has contributed greatly to Urbana's second-largest industry, the making of machine-shop products.

25. CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, end of Henry St., scene of the annual county fair, covers 47 acres. The grounds contain many trees, several white-painted buildings, and a fine half-mile track. The Champaign County Fair Centennial was held here August 4-8, 1941. The first fair held on the present grounds was in 1888. In the winter, the grounds and stables are used as training quarters for his horses by Dr. ("Doc") Hugh M. Parshall, ranking American harness-horse race driver. His large stable usually includes about 20 standardbreds, which "work out" almost every day. Sleek Peter Astra, $40,000 Hambletonian winner in 1939, is here; Lord Jim, 1934 winner, has retired.

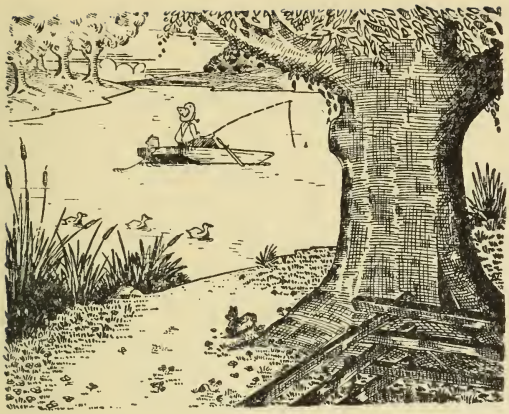
26. Along South Main Street to the business section are a number of residences erected in the last century, but the houses are smaller than those on Scioto Street; many are of simple frame construction.

27. The BRAND WHITLOCK BIRTHPLACE, 510 S. Main St., is a two-story frame house that has been remodeled in recent years. Whitlock (1869-1934) was an author, the four-term reform mayor of Toledo, and the Minister to Belgium during World War I. His 18 published books include novels, such as *The 13th District;* a biography, *Lafayette;* and autobiographical *Forty Years of It; Belgium, a Personal Narrative,* and *Journals*

*and Letters.* Urbana is supposedly the prototype of the Macochee of many of his short stories and the novel, *J. Hardin & Son.*

28. DESMOND - STEPHAN MANUFACTURING COMPANY, 317 S. Walnut St., founded in 1900, makes grinding-wheel dressers, cutters, injectors, and machinist vises.

29. SWEDENBORGIAN CHURCH, Main and Reynolds Sts., is a small stone church with a tall belfry; it has been a distinctive landmark since 1881. The interior contains no plaster or paint, but highly polished red mahogany and pine; rafters, cross-beams, and supports are of the exposed type.



# COUNTY POINTS OF INTEREST

*Via US 68—North from Urbana.*

1. KINGS CREEK MILL, 3.3 m. N. of Urbana, then 1 m. E. on State 290 to second road, .5 m. N., built in 1810 by John Taylor, is still in operation. Taylor, who bought the surrounding land from Isaac Zane, of a family famed in Ohio frontier annals, brought the stone burrs and wooden gears for the mill by oxcart over the mountains from his native Virginia. Among early customers were Indians. The mill was operated by water power until 1936 when a Diesel engine was installed.

2. KINGS CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH, just beyond Kings Creek Mill, organized in 1804, was the third Baptist Church in the Northwest Territory. The present brick and stucco structure, with its Doric columns and lofty spire, is the third building to occupy the site. The original pioneer log structure burned.

3. STATE GAME FARM (*visitors welcome, free*) 4 m. N. of Urbana, just E. of US 68, is a 600-acre tract maintained by the State of Ohio for the propagation of wild fowl, chiefly the ring-neck pheasant and to a lesser extent the fan-tailed Hungarian partridge. The grounds include natural woods cover, a water-course, and acreage for growing grains and grasses. A fine-mesh fence, 8.5 feet high, protects the sanctuary against predatory enemies of the growing fowl. Wings of the young birds are tied to prevent their flying over the fence. The birds are distributed when about six months old. Distribution is in ratio to the sale of hunters' licenses in the various counties. The farm is supervised by Tom

Nash, a bird raiser of more than a half-century experience, both here and abroad.

4. OHIO CAVERNS (*always open; adm. 99c, special rates for large parties, guides furnished*), 9 m. N. then 3 m. E. on State 507, then N. on State 275, is a subterranean wonderland of varicolored stalactites and stalagmites. The caves were discovered in 1897 when farmer Reams, curious about the quick absorption of water in his pig lot, and the sinking of its ground, dug into the earth. He disclosed a section of the caverns. Thereafter, for a long time, they were known as Ream's Cave. Commercial exploitation has since revealed the natural wonders of the maze of passageways to thousands of sightseers. Exhibition equipment includes an electric lighting plant large enough to illuminate a town of two thousand population. The temperature of the caverns stands constantly at 54 degrees. Surface recreation facilities consist of 35 acres of camping and picnic grounds.

*Via US 36—Northeast from Urbana.*

5. BRUSH LAKE (*Adm. free, swimming 25c*), 9.5 m. E., then 3.5 m. N., on a county road, occupies 30 acres and has boating, fishing, and swimming facilities. Bathing suits, boats, and fishing tackle are available.

6. WARREN S. CUSHMAN GRAVE, 11 m. E., then 2 m. N. on State 559, at the Woodstock Cemetery, is the last resting place of this American artist and sculptor (1845-1926). Most notable of his canvases are *Spanish Dancing Girl,* a portrait of President Rutherford B. Hayes, and those with biblical subjects. The monument is an example of his sculpture. Cushman was a native of Woodstock, but his career as an artist was centered in Urbana, Bellefontaine, Springfield, Dayton, and Washington, D. C.

7. LAZY MAN'S REST, 12.7 m. E., at the southwest corner of US 36 and State 559, is a brick, early American residence used as a station on the Underground Railroad in ante bellum days. The dungeon-like rooms used to conceal fugitive slaves are still to be seen.

*Via State 29— Southeast from Urbana.*

8. WOODLAND FARM, 1.4 m. E. of Mechanicsburg, was the home of Joseph Wing. The first Ohio "alfalfa picnic" was held

here in 1911, with 3,500 people in attendance. The red-roofed, stucco house is handsomely situated among massive oak trees.

9. WING MEMORIAL LIBRARY (*open weekdays 2-8:30 p.m.*), Main St., Mechanicsburg, is a Colonial-type, one-story red-brick structure, erected in memory of Joseph Wing (1861-1915). "Alfalfa Joe," as Wing was called, introduced alfalfa to Ohio and was the author of numerous books and articles on agricultural subjects. The library memorial was dedicated in 1940 and is the gift of the Wing family; it has approximately 6,000 volumes. Wing is buried in Mechanicsburg's Maple Grove Cemetery.

10. MECHANICSBURG TOWN HALL, Main Street, is a brick building erected in 1878. Its lofty tower is liberally ornamented with Victorian detail.

11. MECHANICSBURG COMMUNITY PARK, at northern corporation limits, occupies the site of the old Central Ohio Fairgrounds. Vestiges of the old race track can still be seen. A natural amphitheatre and sport and recreational facilities are its main features.

12. JAMES R. HOPKINS FARM, 9.3 m. E., is the country home of the noted Ohio painter and chairman and professor of the Ohio State University Department of Fine Arts. His portrayal of the American mountain types has earned him designation as the "Millet of the Cumberlands."

*Via US 68—South from Urbana.*

13. CEDAR SWAMP, 4 m. S., then about 1 m. W. on a county road, is a wildlife sanctuary on the flood plain of the Mad River. Here are rare plants and natural phenomena, including the only white-cedar swamp in Ohio. The marl bog, reputedly the finest in the State, derives from numerous springs and seepages along Cedar Run that are heavily charged with lime from near-by gravel moraines. Among the rare plants are yellow lady slippers, star flower, alder-leaf buckthorn and bellwort; on the prairies are grasses such as cinquefoil, bluestem, Indian grass, and reed grass, which often grows 10 feet high. Two unusual plants, the sun dew and pitcher plant, feed on insects. Among the wild fowl are the ring-neck pheasant, American bittern, marsh hawk, and yellow rail.

*Via State 55—Southwest from Urbana.*

14. LAKEWOOD BEACH (*adm. free, swimming 25c*), 6.5 m. across Mad River, then S. on State 327, provides swimming, dancing, camping, and picnic facilities. The artificial pool is fed by a spring.

*Via US 36—West from Urbana.*

15. MUZZY'S LAKE (*Adm. 20c, fishing 25c, boating 50c*), W. edge of Urbana, then S. on private road marked by a sign, provides fishing, swimming, and boating. The 50-acre spring-fed lake was formed by the excavations of the American Aggregates Co.; its greatest depth is 55 feet.

16. CAMP CHAMPAIGN (CCC), 11 m. W., just E. of Saint Paris, was established in 1939. It comprises nearly a score of neatly arranged, green-painted barracks.

17. KISER HOUSE, Main Street, Saint Paris, is a modified Greek Revival structure with two-story Ionic-columned porticos on three sides. Large trees shelter the front and side elevations. A high iron fence surrounds part of the large landscaped yard. Built in 1912, this house is the summer residence of Mrs. Thyrza Furrow Kiser, New York, a native benefactress. The Kiser fortune was amassed by John W. Kiser, in the early century, in the manufacture of the Monarch bicycle and Phoenix horseshoes. Kiser's operations were centered in Chicago; he was once reputed to be the largest horseshoe manufacturer in the world.

18. SAINT PARIS LIBRARY (*open weekdays 2-8 p. m.*), near the Kiser House, was established in 1936, largely through Mrs. Kiser's benefactions. The neat stuccoed structure was formerly the Christian Science Church. The library contains nearly 6,000 volumes.

19. HARMON PARK, Saint Paris, includes a baseball diamond, horseshoe courts, and playground equipment for children. A building contains a historical collection.

20. KISER STATE LAKE, State 69, 4.8 m. NW. of St. Paris in Mosquito Creek Valley, is a 350-acre expanse of water. The

lake, impounded by a dam, is picturesquely situated on land contributed largely by Mrs. Kiser. Federal work projects, notably WPA, constructed the dam and beautified the site. Nearby is a CCC camp. The park, which occupies about 630 acres, was completed in 1936-40. Facilities for fishing and picnicking are provided.

*Via State 54—Northwest from Urbana.*

21. RICHARD STANHOPE GRAVE, 11.5 m. at Heathtown, holds the remains of the valet to George Washington. Stanhope was born at Fredericksburg, Virginia, in 1748, and it is said he lived to the age of 114. His duties included supervision of the slaves at Mount Vernon, and he was at the foot of his master's bed when Washington breathed his last. Washington's will set Stanhope free, and the Government gave him a land warrant for 400 acres of Virginia Military Tract in Champaign County, near present Heathtown. Aside from claiming the paternity of 27 children, Stanhope distinguished himself in the Champaign County scene by digging a number of wells and delivering measured discourses as a preacher.

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WPA (Work Projects Administration), 110, 111, 112

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## *THE TYPE OF THIS BOOK*

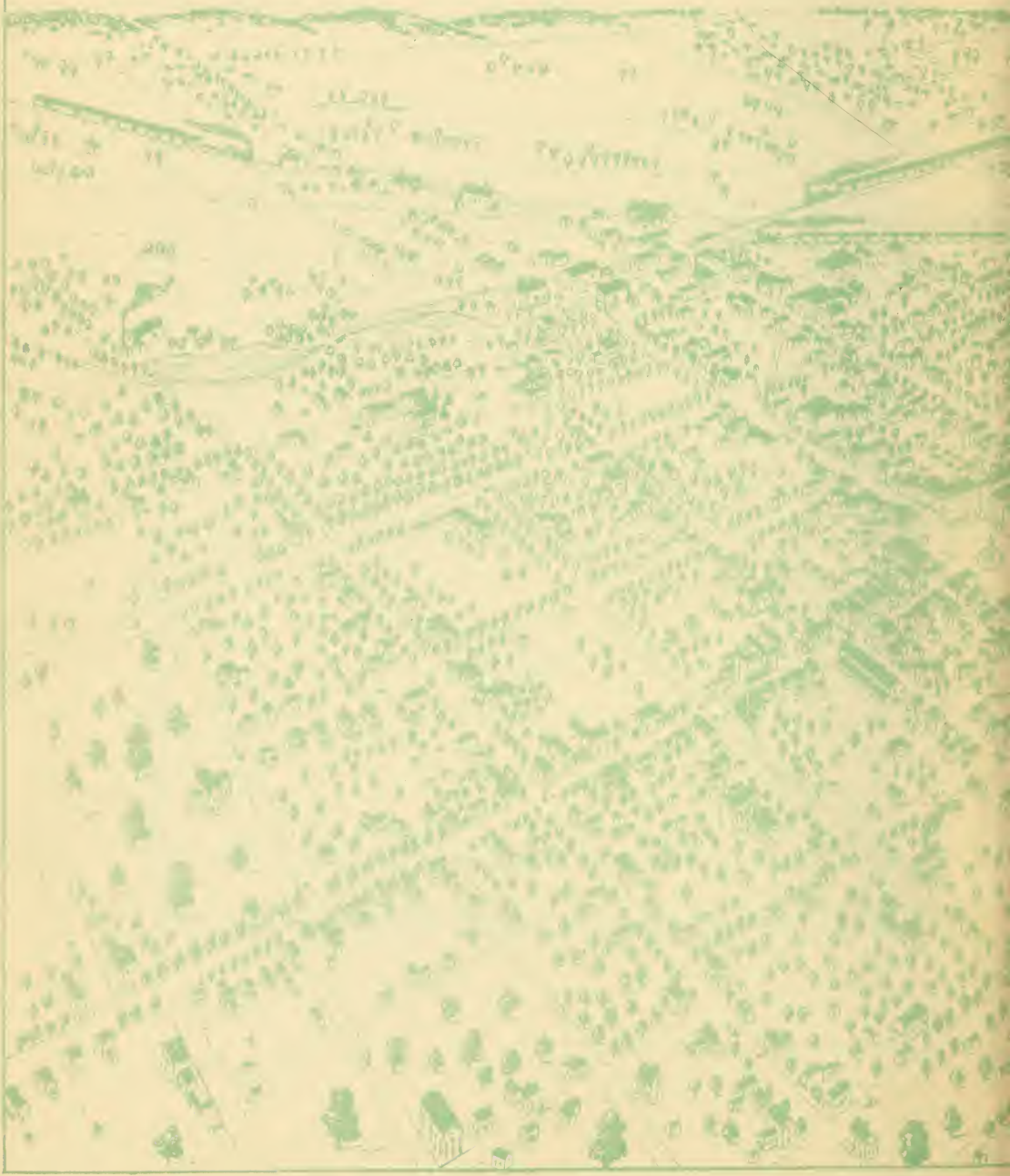
The type face used in the text of this book is Caslon. Londoner William Caslon cut the original font by hand in 1722. The first copies of the Declaration of Independence were set in Caslon Old Style; and it was a favorite of Benjamin Franklin. Except for an interim of neglect from 1780-1840, the beauty and legibility of Caslon has made it one of the most popular type families.

The headings are set in Goudy Hand-tooled italic, creation of one of the foremost of contemporary American type-designers, Frederic W. Goudy.

BIRDS EYE VIEW OF

# URBANA, OHIO.

1872.



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